GEN

√

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 01895 7735

GC
977.701
B97BUC

1856 1956

BUTLER COUNTY CENTENNIAL FAIR

100 Years of Progress

AUGUST 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6

STATE BANK OF ALLISON

FOUNDED APRIL 4, 1881

Efficient, Courteous Service

For Over 75 Years

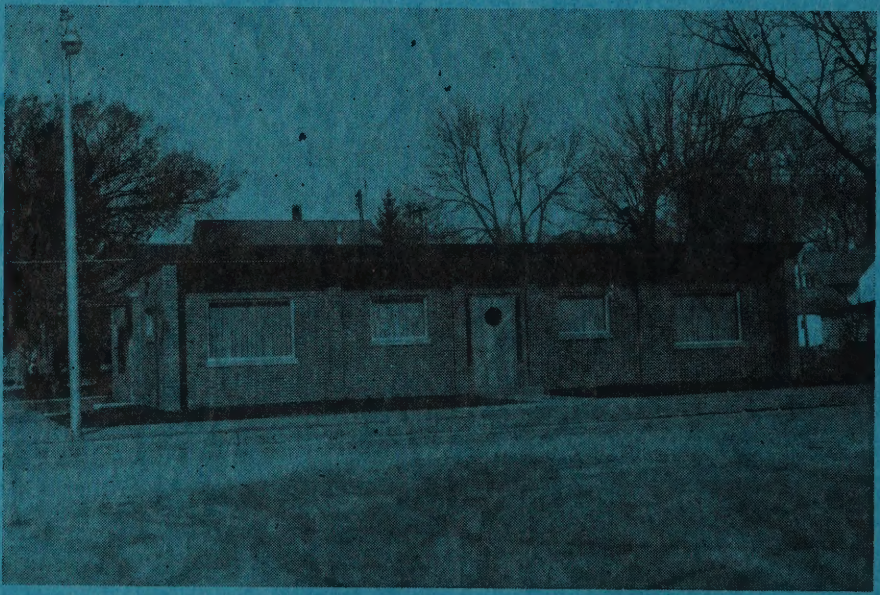
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BUTLER COUNTY FAIR

FROM THE

COUNTY'S OLDEST FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

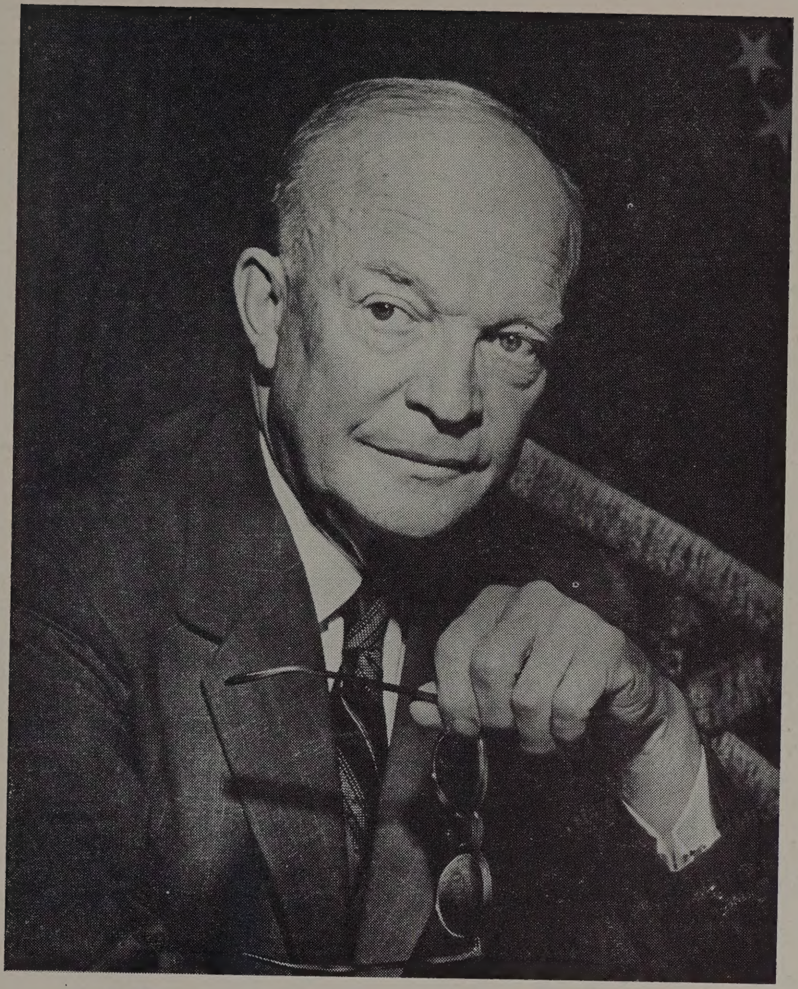
Member F.D.I.C.

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS
to the
BUTLER COUNTY FAIR
from the

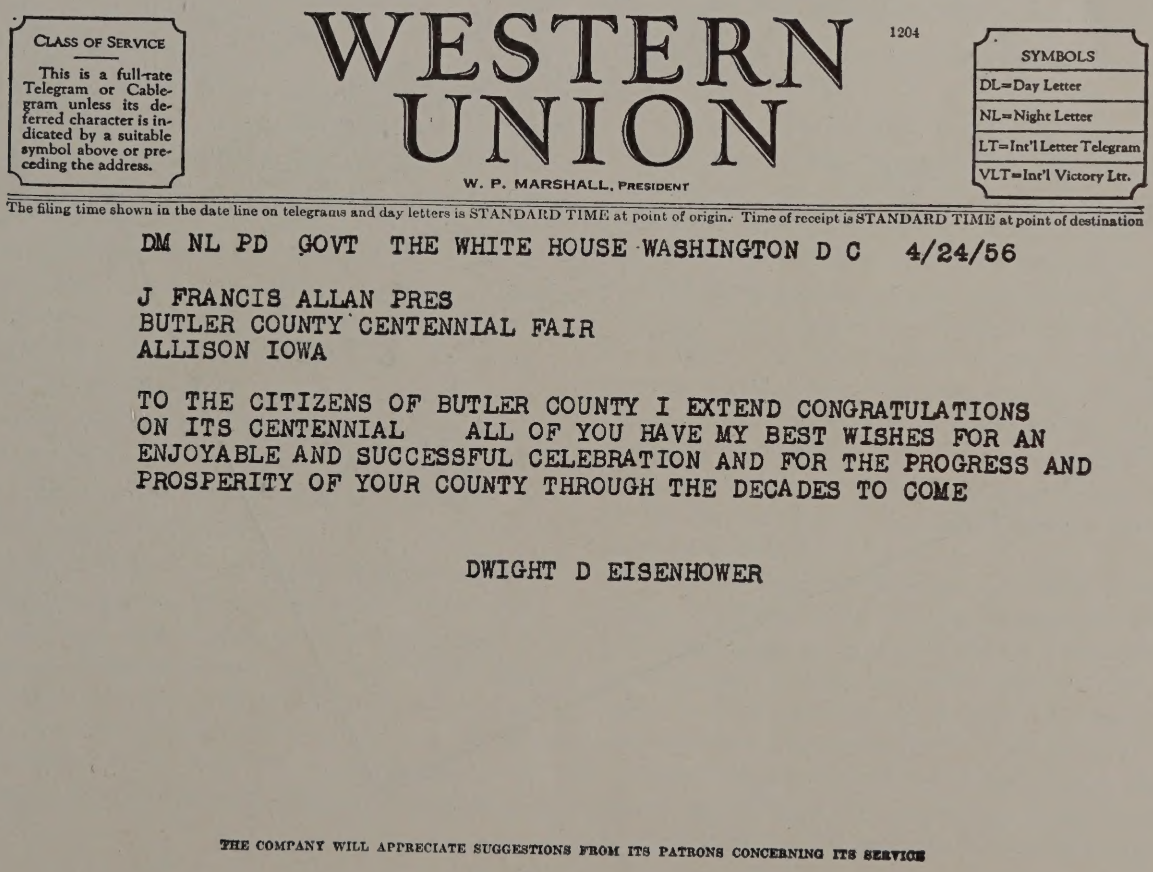


BUTLER COUNTY ABSTRACT CO.

Allison, Iowa
Established 1869
Eighty-seven years of continuous service



Congratulations
From The
President of the
United States



Class of Service

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1204

W. P. MARSHALL, President

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter
NL=Night Letter
LT=Int'l Letter Telegram
VLT=Int'l Victory Ltr.

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

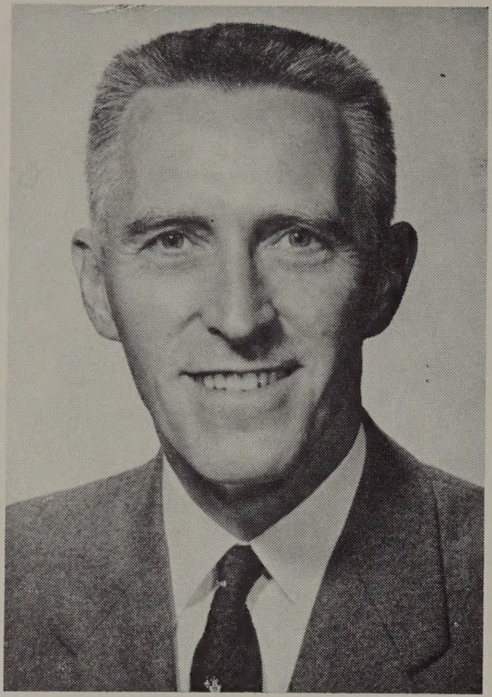
DM NL PD GOVT THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON D C 4/24/56

J FRANCIS ALLAN PRES
BUTLER COUNTY CENTENNIAL FAIR
ALLISON IOWA

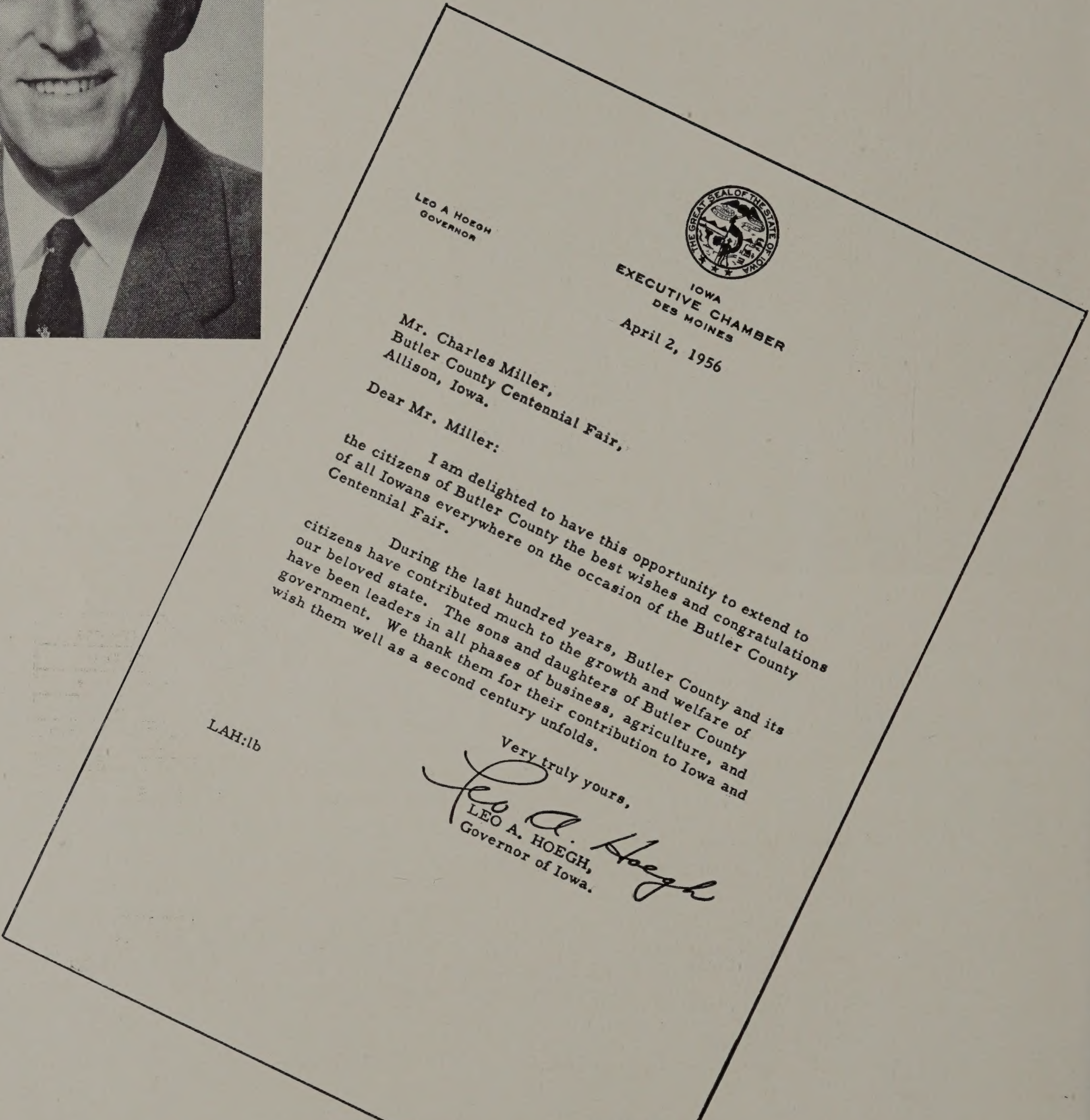
TO THE CITIZENS OF BUTLER COUNTY I EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS ON ITS CENTENNIAL ALL OF YOU HAVE MY BEST WISHES FOR AN ENJOYABLE AND SUCCESSFUL CELEBRATION AND FOR THE PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY OF YOUR COUNTY THROUGH THE DECADES TO COME

DWIGHT D EISENHOWER

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



Greetings
from Iowa's Governor
Leo A. Hoegh



LEO A HOEGH
GOVERNOR

IOWA
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
DES MOINES

April 2, 1956

Mr. Charles Miller,
Butler County Centennial Fair,
Allison, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Miller:

I am delighted to have this opportunity to extend to the citizens of Butler County the best wishes and congratulations of all Iowans everywhere on the occasion of the Butler County Centennial Fair.

During the last hundred years, Butler County and its citizens have contributed much to the growth and welfare of our beloved state. The sons and daughters of Butler County have been leaders in all phases of business, agriculture, and government. We thank them for their contribution to Iowa and wish them well as a second century unfolds.

Very truly yours,

Leo A. Hoegh

LEO A. HOEGH,
Governor of Iowa.

LAH:lb

BUTLER COUNTY CENTENNIAL FAIR

A Century of Progress

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF ALLISON

By Mrs. W. C. Shepard

The town of Allison was named for a great United States Senator—William B. Allison, whose home was in Dubuque.

Butler County, then as now, was a Republican stronghold, and the Dubuque Republican lawyer—William B. Allison, who had been a delegate to the convention in Chicago, in 1860, that nominated Abraham Lincoln for President, was held in great admiration.

Another factor in the selection of the name, is said to have been that the principals of the Stout interests, in Dubuque, active in development of the railroad and the area along it, also were admirers of the Senator.

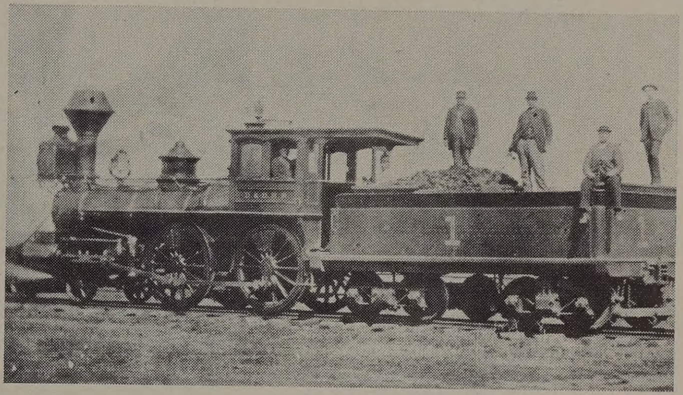
The Allison Town Company, a partnership of prominent Dubuque Capitalists, which in Aug. 1879, platted the town, were: John R. Waller, Gen. C. H. Booth, R. E. Graves, Frank D. Stout, and James Stout.

Its predecessor was called Maudville, in honor of Maude Babbage, daughter of B. A. Babbage, who had established the Iowa Central stock farm, on which the plat of the town was made.

Maudville was about a mile and a half from the present site of Allison. At one time the village had a Post Office, a blacksmith shop, a rooming house, on east side of road, a boarding house on west side of road, and a newspaper—"The Butler County Times." The paper had been started at Parkersburg in the spring of 1870, by W. L. Palmer, as "The Parkersburg Times." About a year later it was sold to C. G. Bundy, who removed it in July 1872, to Maudville, and changed the name. It ceased publication in September 1873.

At that time, Maudville showed promise of development, but shortly thereafter, Mr. Babbage's business interests were transferred to other persons, and attempts to promote the village were dropped.

The History of Allison really began with the coming of the railroad through the plat. The Iowa Pacific Railroad, under the less pretentious name of Dubuque & Dakota, (altho it's greatest length under that name was from Hampton to Sumner) was graded through Butler Co. in 1879. The first train of cars was run into Allison on July 12, 1879, and on Aug. 19, Harry Daggett, the first station agent arrived and took charge of the railroad interests.



Rails had been laid by the predecessor company from Waverly to Clarksville, and now track laying operations proceeded westward, crossing the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern tracks and the Shell Rock River, where the bridge construction was not unlike the Waverly trestle. The Clarksville bridge had the habit of 'going out' with every spring thaw, and it was not unusual for trains to be stopped at one end of the bridge, the passengers alight and walk across the frail structure to a waiting train at the other end.

The first scheduled train operated between Waverly and Clarksville, July 4, 1879. The Independence Day celebrants were conveyed on flat cars with wooden railings around them. Then on July 12, 1879, engine D. & D. R. R. No. 1, hauled the first train through ALLISON to Bristow, and "A RAILROAD COMES TO ALLISON".

In 1880, the road was completed to Hampton, and eastward from Tripoli to Sumner.

Allison grew rapidly and being located quite centrally in the County, soon ended the Court House controversy that was a part of the early day history of every county, by getting the county seat established here.

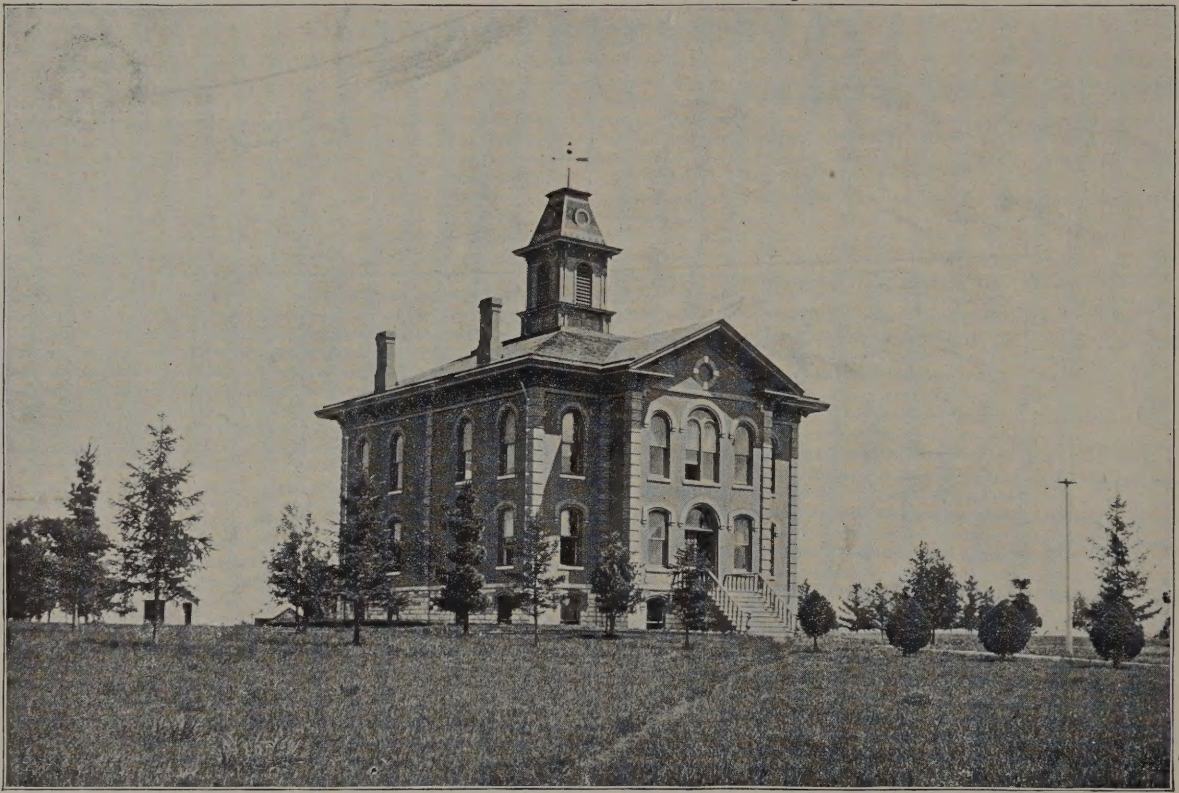
The Court House was first located in Clarksville. In 1858 there was an attempt to move it to Georgetown, a "paper" town nearer the center of the county. It failed by a margin of seven votes. In April 1859, there was another election, and the vote was 385 to 364, for removal of the county seat to Butler Center, also near the center of the county. The Clarksville adherents immediately got an injunction, and in July a district order voided the election, sustaining the contention that there had been irregularities.

In April 1860, another election gave Butler Center a margin of eighty votes. A court house was then erected in Butler Center, at a cost of $2000. The two acres on which it was situated, as well as the building, were donated to Butler County, by Andrew Mullarkey, a farmer who owned considerable land in that vicinity.

The bitterness over the Butler Center selection for county seat lingered for years, but Butler Center was in possession of the County seat for nearly twenty years.

As the railroad did not go through Butler Center, and as the roads were not the best in those early days, it was hard in winter and early spring, to reach the county seat. The question of removal of the county seat came up again, Shell Rock, Bristow and Butler Center wanting it, and after several elections, in Nov. 1880, removal to **Allison** was carried by a majority of 265 votes.

The records were moved to Allison on Jan. 10, 1881. No buildings were ready to receive them, the Clerk, Recorder and Sheriff were put into quarters in the upper story of a building owned by A. M. McLeod. The Auditor and Treasurer were stationed in the drug store of Dr. Riggs, until a small county office building in Butler Center could be moved to **Allison.**



Butler County Court House, Allison, Iowa
First Picture (Wooden Steps)

ALLISON HARDWARE

★ PLUMBING
★ HEATING
★ PAINTS

A NATION-WIDE ASSOCIATION OF DEALERS
the Independent
HOME OWNED
HARDWARE
STORE
PLEDGED TO SERVICE · QUALITY · VALUE

Allison, Iowa Phone 4681

WALLY'S ELECTRIC
AND
HAND CRAFT SHOP

EVERYTHING IN WIRING

Your Good Will is Our Desire

Phone
Bristow 2316
Allison 4141

Allison Iowa

The Court House was built in year 1881, for the sum of $10,680, the contractor was L. D. Harvey of Clarksville, and in 1903, an addition was constructed on the north side of the building for $5000.

In 1937 another addition was constructed on the east side, it was 27 by 38, and the Clerk's offices occupy the 2nd floor rooms, and 1st floor, gave the Auditor and Treasurer more room.

In the summer of 1927, a jail was built east of the Court House, and entirely separate from the Court House building. Its size is 22 by 49, the contract was let May 18, 1927, to Richard Burbridge, for $7622.90, with the privilage of adding $255.00 for face brick. A Waverly electrical company had the wiring, Allison Hardware, heating and plumbing, and a St. Louis firm the equipment contract, making a total cost of $14,051.90, without the added privilege of $255.00.

The ones who landscaped the grounds had an eye for beauty, for the arrangement of the trees and walks could not have been nicer. The two cannons which stood on the grounds so many years, were taken away in Aug. 1942, to furnish material for the war. One weighed 8680 lbs., the other 8490 lbs. The freight was paid by the county—$159.00. Tom Epperly was the Chairman of the Salvage Committee, it was called Uncle Sam's war effort.

Allison is in the center of a fine agricultural district. When the town was platted there was only wild grass here, and not a tree in sight. Early residents tell of herding cattle on the prairie where Allison now stands.

There was a school house in the S. E. corner of Sec. 26, of West Point twp. called the Maudville school. This is about a mile S. W. of the present town of Allison, where the new filling station was built in 1955. It was here that Carrie Lane taught from Dec. 2, 1878, to March 20, 1879. She had sixteen pupils. Mrs. F. A. Poppen, whose maiden name was Kate Harms, daughter of Gert P. Harms, is the only one we know of now living who attended the school when Carrie Lane was the teacher. She lived across the road on the corner, on a farm now (1956) owned by Eilt Heeren.

Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Fisher, moved to the Iowa Central Stock Farm, Jan. 6, 1875, from Nashua, and it was thru their friendship that Mrs. Fisher secured Carrie Lane as teacher. She boarded with the Fishers while teaching.

Later we know of her as Carrie Lane Chapman-Catt who became one of the National figures as a worker for Women's Suffrage.

Another teacher of this same school was Mary E. Chapline, who later became the wife of Geo. M. Craig, the man who had much to do with the early history of Allison. She also boarded with the Fishers.

This Maudville school house was later moved to Allison, was placed on Lot 431, where for a time it was used as an Episcopal Church. It was sold to the trustees of the Diocese of St. Andrews Mission, July 22, 1884, and a minister, Rev. S. R. J. Hoyt from Waverly conducted services in it. Before this for a short time before the school house was built in the N.W. part of town, it was used for school purposes. About 1890, John W. Ray bought the building, and it was moved to his farm in Jackson twp.

Wehrhan & Henrichs

HARDWARE, PLUMBING & HEATING

Your Business Appreciated

Congratulations to the Butler

County Fair

on their

100 Years of Progress

Allison Iowa

CONGRATULATIONS

to the Butler County Fair

on it's 100th Birthday

Allison Implement Co., Inc.

DIAL 3541

Allison Iowa

FARM EQUIPMENT DEALER FOR

OLIVER — Sales & Service

Finest in Farm Machinery

NEW HOLLAND D HAY Equipment

First in Grassland Farming

AMANA DEEP FREEZERS

Allison School 1883 to 1912

The new school house was a two story brick veneer building, which occupied the present site, with two rooms, and a hall on first floor, the second story was not finished till later. There were but two teachers at first—Mr. W. L. Robinson, and Miss Hettie Lans, whose married name was Mrs. John Birkbeck.

The first class to graduate from the Allison school was under the tutorage of Prof. Geo. H. Betts, in 1895. They were Clifford Winsett, Willis Bell, Silas Austin, Mabel Martin, Loville Davis and Myrtle Parsons.

The brick veneer school house was used till 1912, when it was torn down and a good brick building erected, which was ready for occupancy immediately after Thanksgiving 1912. Before the school building was ready classes were carried on in the Digman House. In 1927 a two room addition was made, and the same year the gymnasium was built. This school house burned from causes unknown Sat. Oct. 26, 1929. It was discovered around 2:00 o'clock a.m. and school the rest of the year was held in Associated Churches, Lutheran Church basement, and two rooms in County Jail building.

Allison School 1912

FAIRCHILDS 5 & $1.00
YOUR BUSINESS APPRECIATED
Allison Iowa

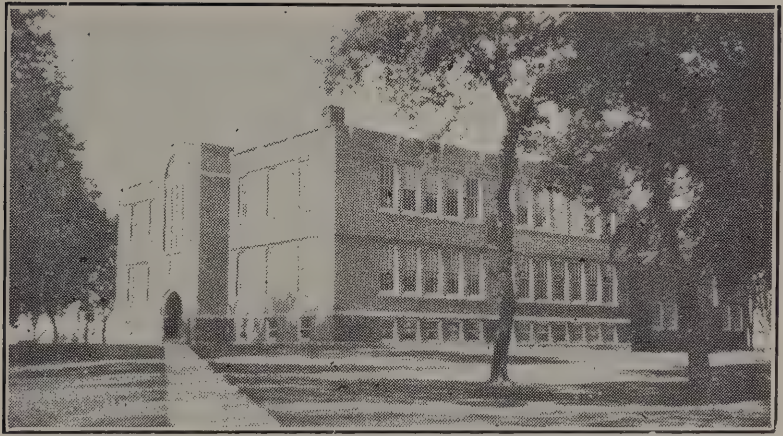
HOTEL ALLISON
&
PARTY ROOM
A Hotel That's
Convenient and Comfortable
Also Catering to Your Party Needs
Harry and Christena Hampel
Phone 2952 Allison, Iowa

WILSON'S TAVERN
CONGRATULATIONS
To The
BUTLER COUNTY FAIR
On Its
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
Allison Iowa

DR. RALPH McWHIRTER
DENTIST
ALLISON, IOWA

ALLISON DRUG STORE
★ Fountain Service ★ Magazines
Complete stock of drugs & drug sundries
★ All Prescriptions compounded by a
Registered Pharmacist
EASTMAN Kodaks & Film
Poultry & Livestock Remedies
★ Johnstons Candies & Chocolates
Phone 2661

High School at Allison — 1930



A new school house was built in 1930, in time for the opening of the school in fall. Richard Burbridge was the contractor in charge at that time, as he was when the former house was built in 1912.

The Allison school offers a fully accredited twelve year course of study, and many pupils finish eighth grade in rural schools and complete their high school work here. In 1931 the school board added a business course, for those who care to prepare for business positions. An athletic department was added after the gymnasium was built, and our ball players have won many trophies.

At the present time our school has seventeen teachers, (1956) seven in high school, and ten in grades and kindergarten. There are ninety-one scholars in high school, and two-hundred nineteen in grades, twenty-three in kindergarten, making a total of 333 scholars.

The largest class to graduate was in 1944, when twenty-six graduated. There are twenty-six in the class this year, so if all finish 1956 will be tied with 1944.

W. C. Shepard was on the school board from 1917 to 1942, twenty-five years, he holding the office longer than any other board member to the present time.

The school district was enlarged at the last election as all of three districts and parts of five districts were added to the Allison school district. These were from townships—Jefferson, Jackson, Dayton, Coldwater and West Point. This takes effect this coming July 4th.

FIRST SETTLERS

The first settler in the town of Allison was George C. Martin, who moved his family in from Southeast of Allison where he had been living on a farm, in Sept. 1879, into a new house he had built. He opened the first livery stable here. His house was also a lodging house, for the travelers until the hotel was ready to accommodate them. His business was later known as Martin & Dobking, Martin & Webster and still later Martin & Son, which in time had to give way to the automobile. At present only one of his children is living—Mrs. Fanny Hammel, who lives in Clarksville.

The first blacksmith was Michael Weires, he commenced work here April 8, 1880. Three of his children still reside in Allison—Edward, Bernard and Eva.

The second settler was Charles Waters, who opened the first lumber yard, and erected a number of the first buildings in the town.

Frank Elliott, J. J. Cleaver, and L. E. Lincoln, respectively, a mason, a painter, and a carpenter and builder, were the other arrivals in the town during the remaining months of 1879.

DICK C. BAUMAN
GENERAL TRUCKING
Your Business Appreciated
Allison Iowa

Cassman Machine & Welding Shop
ALL WORK GUARANTEED
Allison Iowa

BRODERICK BARBER SHOP
YOUR BUSINESS APPRECIATED
Allison Iowa

ED REISETTER
YOUR STANDARD OIL AGENT
Phone 2811
Allison Iowa

HILL'S GROCERY
Allison Iowa
CONGRATULATIONS

WEIRES & CODNER
Dealers in Scrap Metal
AUTO WRECKING
Allison, Iowa Phone

Business Firms in 1880 and 1881

Fletcher Moore and Charles Grasley	Mercantile Business
Dr. J. S. Riggs	Drug Store and Office
John A. Riggs	Drug Store with his Brother
Dr. S. E. Burroughs	Drug Store and Office known as J. A. Riggs & Co.
Winsett & Burnham	Hardware
C. D. Williams	Drygoods
Birkbeck Bros.	Mercantile
Anderson & Harbert	Drygoods, Groceries, Clothing, Boots and Shoes
Dr. Burbank & Son	Drug Store Building where Deihl
Geo. Woodward	Elevator
Louis Pharo	Wagon Maker
F. J. Smith, later Frank Elliott	Barber Shop
John Bell	Furniture Dealer, Succeeded by
C. B. Bishop	Furniture Dealer
Levi Baker	Restaurant
Henry Farnum	Harness Shop, Started by R. Pond & Co. Conducted by H. F.
Mrs. Anna Myers	Millinery Store
Lathrop & Davis, Craig & Smith, Geo. A. McIntyre, C. H. Scott	Lawyers
Lathrop, Hyde & Levis	Abstract Firm, 1880
George M. Craig & A. I. Smith	Abstract Firm, 1881
Mettler & Elliott	Masons
Pattee & Levis	Insurance
C. B. Bishop	Contractor & Builder
E. S. Thomas Esq.	Dealt Out Justic
J. B. Combellick	Meat Market

Bank Organized April 4, 1880—Founders: Ridgeway of Waverly, Perrin of Clarksville, Slimmer of Waverly. I. E. Lucas, First Cashier.

Post Office—1879-1880 in Depot, J. M. Dagget, Postmaster, father of the depot agent.

First Occurrences in Allison

The first born occurred April 24, 1880, a son to Frank and Mary Jane Elliott, named Frank Allison. The father was a barber.

The first death was a child of Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Craig, on April 16, 1881. It was buried in Butler Center.

The first marriage of Allison parties occurred in Waverly and was the marriage of Michael Weires of Allison and Miss Ellen Marlow who lived in the country near Allison. This marriage occurred Oct. 20, 1880. Their son Frank was the third birth in town.

Charles Grasley of Allison was soon after married in Waterloo to a lady of that city.

The first marriage ceremony performed in Allison was that uniting Gilead G. Coonley and Emma C. Murphy of Bristow on Oct. 30, 1881.

State Farm Insurance Co's.
Kenneth W. Cordes, Representative
Protection for You and Yours
★ AUTO ★ LIFE ★ FIRE
State Farm Mutual Insurance Companies
Phone 3001 Allison, Iowa

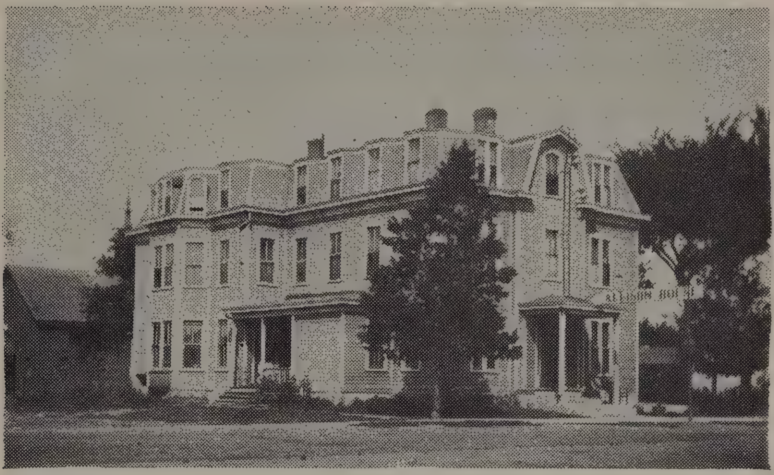
LUNCH BOX
★ MEALS
★ SHORT ORDERS
★ CIGARETTES
★ CIGARS
Allison Iowa

BILL DEBOWER
GENERAL TRUCKING
Phone 3261 Allison, Iowa

Kussatz Tavern & Cafe
MEALS — SHORT ORDERS
BEER — CIGARETTES
A Place to Meet Your Friends
Allison, Iowa Phone 4071

Gail's Beauty Shop
★ MACHINE
★ MACHINELESS
★ COLD WAVE PERMANENTS
Phone 2151
Allison Iowa
CONGRATULATIONS

CITY MARKET
Ervin Diekman
Meat, Groceries & Locker Service
Aplington Phone 60 Iowa



Allison House Built in 1879 — Burned 1909

The Allison House, one of the first buildings erected in the village, was built by the Allison Town Company. It was commenced Sept. 1879, and finished before Christmas of the same year. The contractor was Mr. Flinck of Dubuque, and the architectural design was drawn by F. D. Hyde of Dubuque. The size was then 32 x 36, three stories with a Mansard roof. The cost was $5000. On Jan. 2, 1880, it was opened to the public. C. W. Corwin coming from Waterloo being the first proprietor. In Aug. 1881 an addition was made doubling its former size. The addition was 32 x 50, three stories high, and a kitchen 20 x 28, one and one-half stories high. These improvements cost $6000, equipment $2000, making a total cost of $13,000. It contained twenty-two sleeping rooms. The house was furnished with water by means of a force pump. In Feb. 1880, an excellent barn was erected at a cost of $1000. In those early days a good many people drove from one town to another and had to have a place to put their horse over night. When the hotel was completed it gave Allison the most commodious and best equipped hotel between Dubuque and the western terminus of this line of railroad.

This building stood and under various managements, continued to serve the traveling public until Jan. 7, 1909, when it burned to the ground. Some young men of the town had rooms on the third floor, and some of the rooms had stoves. It was thought one of the stoves became overheated, the cause of the fire. The young men

Claude Crawford Electric

★ WIRING

★ G. E. APPLIANCES

★ RADIOS

★ TELEVISION

Electrical Service Department

Allison Iowa

"Your Business Appreciated"

Dial 4581

BAKER'S GROCERY

GROCERIES

FRESH MEATS

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Everything for the Table

Your Business Appreciated

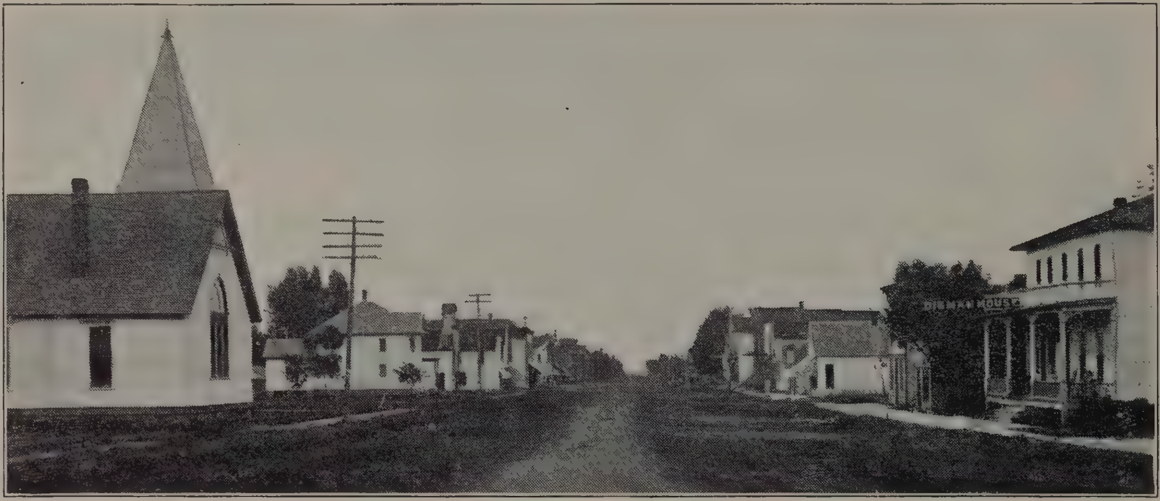
Congratulations Butler County on Your Centennial Fair

Allison Iowa

lost all their posessions. W. J. Hunt was the owner of the hotel and Lafe Belden was the landlord. He sold the grounds June 21, 1909 to H. Folken. At the time, this disaster was considered almost a death blow to the prospects of the town. Later however, through the enterprise of the Ray brothers, W. F. and F. J., the present structure was erected north of the bank and opened Feb. 1912, and again Allison enjoys the distinction of possessing a fine hotel.

The Digman House

The Digman House which was built in Butler Center by Franz Digman was removed to Allison in summer of 1881. It was south of the present Legion Hall and late in the fall of 1881 opened to guests. Mrs. Digman was the first proprietress here in Allison and Carl Franke was clerk. It was a nice building and continued to serve the public until the new hotel building north of the bank was built. W. J. Hunt was the last proprietor of the Digman House.



Allison Main Street, Digman House on right side.

1881 **1956**

FOR SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS

THE ALLISON TRIBUNE

has been serving

ALLISON AND BUTLER COUNTY

Promoting A Better Community Life

with

NEWS FEATURES

and

MERCHANDISING SALES MESSAGES

—o—

Carrying Weekly News Letters

from

BRISTOW **DUMONT**
UNITY **CLARKSVILLE**

THE ALLISON TRIBUNE

Read By Over 4,000 Prosperous Butler County Residents Each Week

Mayors of Allison from 1881 to Date

W. A. Lathrop	1881-1886
G. M. Craig	1886-1890
W. A. Lathrop	1890-1895
W. F. Ray	1895-1899-Resigned
G. M. Craig	To Fill Vacancy
G. M. Craig	1900-1904
G. Hazlet	1904-Resigned
S. W. Burroughs	To Fill Vacancy-Removed by Order of District Court
N. W. Scovel	1905-1906-Filled Vacancy
W. C. Shepard	1906-1908-Resigned
N. W. Scovel	To Fill Vacancy 1908-1910
E. S. Trager	1910-1912
Z. Elliott	1912-Resigned
F. C. Folkers	To Fill Vacancy
O. F. Missman	1913-1922
W. P. Miller	1922-1925
A. W. Johnson	1925-1928
Geo. Arnold	1928-1949
John Roalf	1949-1950
E. C. Weisbard	1950-1952
John F. Folkers	1952-1956
W. C. Polderboer	1956-

In Allison History of 1883

The first band was organized in Aug. 1881 and was called the Brass Band. It consisted of the following persons:

F. L. Dodge, leader	Cornet
G. L. Anderson	Cornet
Henry Farnan	Cornet
C. W. Levis	Alto
Will Corwin	Alto
Michael Weires	Tenor
Will Dagget	Tenor
W. E. Hyde	Baritone
Ed Lincoln	Tuba
James Gillen	Brass Drum
Zena Thomas	Snare Drum

In Butler County Tribune Dec. 24, 1895,

Called Allison Military Band

J. C. Sanders	Director
G. H. Dreher	President
F. E. Howard	Secretary & Treasurer

Instrumentation:

Marshall Craig	Piccolo
Joe Jungkunz	First Clarinet
Wm. Hunter	Second Clarinet
Joe Kincaid	E. Cornet
J. C. Sanders	Solo Cornets
F. E. Howard	Solo Cornets
Chas. Burroughs	First Cornet
Frank Hyde	First Cornet
Francis Hyde	Second Cornet
W. E. Hyde	Solo Alto
Harry Dreher	First Alto
Chas. Corsaut	First Tenor
Frank Weires	Second Tenor
Ralph Franke	Baritone
John Crawford	B. Bass
Frank Dreher	Tuba
John Corsaut	Tuba
Geo. Stevenson	Bass Drum
Will Crawford	Snare Drum

BUTLER-GRUNDY FARM SERVICE

All Petroleum Products Paints and Fertilizers

BUY WHERE YOU RECEIVE DOUBLE DIVIDENDS

FIRST IN QUALITY

SECOND IN CASH

CONGRATULATIONS BUTLER COUNTY ON YOUR CENTENNIAL FAIR

DIAL 4162 - ALLISON

Allison Band

A brass band was organized in 1908 known as the "County Seat Band," consisting of 4 cornets, baritone, bass, 3 altos, 3 trombones, bass drum and snare drum. The director was Bert Thompson who was the County Clerk.

A few years later Floyd Delker of Greene, became the director and more instruments were added to the band. An evening concert was played at Rockford and the band played at a two-day celebration in Clarksville. For these concerts they were attired in new uniforms consisting of blue coats, white duck trousers and cap with C.S.B. on it.

In 1913, a man by name of Tolemeo Johannas became leader. Saxophones were added and a mixed chorus of 37 people were drilled by him. The band and chorus went to Parkersburg and gave a concert.

The next band leader right after World War I was A. J. Kirkpatrick who owned and operated the Allison Tribune. He directed the band for eight years.

In 1926 Mr. Chas. Ball, formerly cornet soloist and assistant conductor of Kryl's widely known band, moved to Waterloo and took several school bands to direct. Allison school was fortunate to get his service. He was our first school band director. He was also town band director for eleven years.

Then the time came when the school wanted a band director who could teach some other subjects and Mr. Gorden Cosner was hired. He was the leader of the town band through the summer months and was here several years. Other band leaders for the school and town bands were: Milton Meusel, J. Worth Miller, Wendall Schaffer, John Holman and the present director, Richard Lynch, who is doing a fine job with the Junior and Senior school band and chorus and summer concert band.

(Several old pictures of the bands and chorus will be in the store windows during the Centennial.)

Butler County Abstract Company

In 1868 when Butler County was in its infancy, and when a person could drive for miles without seeing signs of settlement, George M. Craig and Lore Alford started the first set of abstract books of the county.

The county seat was then located in Butler Center. Subsequent to that time, but during the earlier years of the county's history, the partnership thus formed was changed to Thompson & Craig, Craig & Smith, and for a time Geo. M. Craig conducted the business alone.

In 1887 W. F. Ray became associated with Mr. Craig, and the business from that time until 1904 was carried on under the firm name of Craig and Ray, with the exception of about five years when W. E. Hyde was a member of said firm.

In 1901 the firm of Craig & Ray employed J. V. Gregory to work for them, and he was employed until 1904 when the business of the firm was incorporated under the name of Craig-Ray Abstract Company, and J. V. Gregory taken in as a member of such corporation. In July 1906 the officers were Geo. M. Craig, Pres.; W. F. Ray, Vice Pres.; J. V. Gregory, Sec. Mr Craig continued active in the business till he retired and moved to California in 1912. At that time he sold his interet in the abstract company to Herman Wild who served as an active officer of the company until his death in July 1927.

W. C. Shepard who became associated with the company in the fall of 1909 was the president after Mr. Craig retired. He continued in that capacity as long as he lived, his demise being June 13, 1952.

On Jan. 3, 1945, the corporate charter of the Craig-

PAUL'S D-X SERVICE
Junction Hiway 3 and 14
and for
Complete Tank Wagon Service
call your
D-X Service Man Cordon Heath
Phone 4441 Allison, Iowa

FARMERS IMPLEMENT & SUPPLY
M.M. & Allied
Leonard Steer, Prop.
Richard Seehusen, Operator
Allison Iowa

ALLISON CAFE

Specializing in Seafood, and Steaks

Sunday Dinners and Courtious Service

Wayne and Dixie

Wish To Congratulate

The Butler Co. Fair

Tis The Taste That Tells The Tale

BETTESWORTH'S

General Dry Goods - Shoes

Your Business Appreciated

We Congratulate the Butler County

on 100 Years of Continuous Fairs

Allison, Iowa Dial 4201

Ray Abstract Company expired and a new one was adopted which changed the name of the company to Butler County Abstract Company and increased the capital stock from $10,000 to $20,000. The charter was renewed for twenty years.

The present officers are: Virgil E. Shepard, President; Dana D. Shepard, Vice President; Ada R. Miller, Secretary; Muriel I. Shepard, Treasurer.

In 1955 a new building was erected for the Butler County Abstract Company. It was built from plans drawn by W. C. Shepard. It is an attractive structure, centrally located and is a fine improvement to the town of Allison.

Methodist Church

The Methodist Church was the first church to be organized and built in Allison. It was organized Aug. 15, 1880, by Rev. Laban Winsett. The first eight trustees of the church were: W. A. Lathrop, F. L. Dodge, Daniel Bruce, F. Moore, C. B. Bishop, J. K. Winsett, C. W. Corwin and Turner Birkbeck.

Prior to the building of the church, services were held in the Tribune building, the preacher often going from house to house to announce the services.

The foundation for the church was laid in June 1881, and May 14, 1882 the building was dedicated. Presiding Elder Crippen officiated, assisted by Rev. R. D. Parsons of Vinton and the resident pastor, Rev. W. H. Records. One thousand and sixty dollars, the money needed to formally dedicate the church, was raised that day.

The M. E. Sunday School was the first organization of this character in the town having been established in May 1880 with C. B. Bishop as Supt. Other early superintendents were: Turner Birkbeck, Frank Elliott and G. M. Craig.

At a later date the church building was remodeled and an addition built on the south to furnish extra room for the Sunday School.

One of the early church secretaries was Rev. Joe Gough, who kept the secretary book when it was finished. It is now in possession of his son, Rev. Edward Gough, the Methodist minister at New Hartford.

The pastors up to July 20, 1917 are named as follows:

Reverends Laban Winsett, W. H. Records, J. .M Hedges, John Bretnall, Frank E. Day, A. L. Chase, P. J. Leonard, C. A. Peddicord, S. E. Yaggy, J. W. Bachellor, Edward A. Lang, C. A. Thompson, J. A. Dearing, J. D. Perry, Wm. Pearse, J. E. Abrams, T. O. Kent, J. M. Hartley, W. Ward Smith, L. D. Stubbs, Will A. Piper, A. A. Hallett, C. R. Disney, E. H. Free, Earl A. Roadman, J. S. Lilly.

Voted to unite with the Congregational Church of Allison, under articles of agreement drawn up by a committee of members of both churches.

Subsequently the M. E. church was sold to the local AF & AM lodge, the money from sale reverting to the M. E. organization, as is the rule of the society.

The new organization to be known as the Associated Churches of Allison.

Order of the Eastern Star

After the M. E. Church building was sold to the Mason Lodge, the ladies thought it would be nice to have a lodge of their own, as they now would have a building to hold their meetings. A number had previously belonged to the Bristow chapter.

A petition for a chapter was made, and on Feb. 22, 1926, Mrs. Jessie Wheeler of Waterloo, Grand Worthy Matron, assisted by Agnes Mueller of New Hampton, in-

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE SERVICE
LOW COST INSURANCE FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS
AUTO - FARM PROTECTION - HAIL - FIRE
LIFE FOR ALL
Norman J. Stevenson
Allison
Phone 2091
Agency Manager
JIM DORNBUSCH
SHELL ROCK
PHONE 8316
LEO CHISHOLM
GREENE
PHONE 146
LYLE ROOSE
CLARKSVILLE
PHONE 5712
SPECIAL AGENTS

structor for the 3rd District, were in charge of the installation. Zella Weiland was the first Worthy Matron, Eugene Owen the first Worthy Patron.

The lodge was under a special dispensation, until the Oct. meeting of the Grand Lodge, when they received their Charter.

The present (1956) Worthy Patron and Worthy Matron are: Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Schräge.

Catholic Church

Father Coyle was the first to hold a Catholic service in Allison, using the parlors of the Digman House. In 1890 a movement was begun for the building of a church of their own. On Dec. 8, 1890, the Immaculate Conception Church was completed and dedicated, Rev. Father Coyle being in charge at that time and the mass was read by Rev. Lewis Kirby of Greene.

Soon after the erection of the church, Father Wrenn was appointed resident pastor, remaining in charge seven months when Father Heegan was given the charge and remained a year. Father James Ryan was appointed and said his first mass here Sunday Nov. 18, 1894. Less than seven months after the dedication of the church a parochial residence was finished and the pastor moved from his temporary quarters into the home. He remained the pastor for eight years.

This parsonage was sold in 1902, and the Allison parish was made an out mission of Hampton until 1913 when it became an out mission of Parkersburg and is so served at the present time. Rev. Carl Ruhland is the present pastor and services are held every Sunday.

Weires Evener

In the early 1900's Michael Weires, the first Allison blacksmith, had an invention patented that was thought to put Allison on the map and **did** put Allison on the map, but along came the automobile and the Weires evener was not needed anymore.

He invented a steel evener to take the place of the wooden double-tree, and a flourishing business was carried on for some time. Steel was ordered by the carload and every day bundles of the eveners all painted and striped were shipped out.

But with the coming of the automobile and the tractor the business was discontinued.

Mason Lodge

The Opal Lodge A.F. and A.M. was the first lodge organized here, the date being Sept. 1881. Pattee, Thomas, Ray, Ilgenfritz, Daggett, Baker, Davis and Dobking, comprised the official roll. There were seven other charter members.

The officers for 1956 are: Jack Opperman, Dana Shepard, Glenn Hagerty, Carroll Wild, Lester Shepard, Allen Cooper, Virgil Shepard, Francis Allan, Richard Speedy, Robert Shultz and Harry Hill.

Cemetery

A cemetery for the town of Allison was agitated for many years by the paper and different lodges and societies took steps that all helped in the platting of the Allison cemetery one and one-half miles south of town in the spring of 1885.

Some burials had already been made there but boundaries were not established until then.

In 1903 the Patriotic & Benevolent Society, then under the leadership of Mrs. G. M. Craig, appointed a cemetery committee and the work of draining and putting the

Diehl Furniture Store

Funeral Service
Allison, Iowa

★ **ONE MINUTE WASHERS—DRYERS**

★ **ADMIRAL APPLIANCES & T.V.**

★ **KELVINATOR APPLIANCES**

★ **SPRED SATIN PAINT**

★ **DE JEL PAINT**

Office Phone 2632 — Residence Phone 2634

Pagel Feed & Produce

Headquarters for all
NUTRENA FEEDS

RATH'S FEEDS

Disco Seeds

Peebles & Hess Whey

Fertilizer

Myzon

Peet — Poultry Medications

We Buy Poultry and Eggs

Phone 4761 — Allison, Iowa

grounds in shape was completed. This was a much needed improvement.

The cemetery is cared for by the sale of lots, and by a tax levy.

On July 21, 1953, two and one-half acres of land on the north side of cemetery was purchased and graded and when trees are set out will make a nice addition to the original grounds.

Allison Public Library

The public library movement had its beginning about 1901 when the first library was opened here. It was established by a group of progressive women on the reading circle plan—as many libraries in many small centers have been promoted. This library was housed in Arnold Bros. store and was opened to any one who wished to donate a book or a small sum of money toward its upkeep. Books were borrowed from the Traveling Library Association and the library functioned successfully for several years. After its decline no library facilities were available in Allison until 1921, when the Woman's Club determined to try again the library experiment upon much the same plan as its predecessor had operated. Each member donated one or more books yearly and invited any one who wished to become a reader to do so upon the same terms. For the next seven years these books were housed in Hill's furniture when it became apparent the field called for a regularly established library with some one in charge.

At the invitation of the Woman's Club, and the offer of its collection of books, then numbering nearly two hundred, an association library was opened, sponsored by the Woman's Club, the Community Club, and the American Legion Auxiliary. A year later this library having grown from a nucleus of 200 books to 600 books, was turned over to the town of Allison and was moved into the west room on the second floor of the new Allison Town Hall in 1938 and is now functioning as the Allison Public Library. It owns at present more than 3700 volumes. Its use is free to all residents of Allison and any members of the Public school and is available to country readers for a small fee.

The library is under the management of a board of trustees appointed by the mayor. The first board was: Mrs. A. W. Froning, President; Miss Agnes Dailey (now Mrs. Frank Neal) Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. E. M. Speedy, Mrs. John Weiland, Miss Hazel Black, W. C. Shepard, Dr. Ralph McWhirter, Mrs. W. T. Davidson, librarian.

The present trustees are: Mrs. Ralph McWhirter, President; Mrs. John Weiland, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. V. E. Shepard, Mrs. Herbert Folkers, Mrs. Mark Newberry, Mrs. C. H. Wild, and Mrs. Erwin Klingbeil. Mrs. Dick Bauman is librarian.

DICK AISSEN
Lime Spreading
Phone 4413
Allison Iowa

SCHAEFFER'S
Cash & Carry Grocery
Complete Line of
Meats—Fruits—Vegetables—Groceries
Best in Food at the Right Prices
Allison Iowa

BUSSE - Phillips "66"
Station & Tavern
Congratulations Butler County
on your Centennial Fair
Allison Iowa

SCHULTZ BARBER SHOP
Hair Cuts Styled as you wish
Pool Hall Opened Every Evening
Allison Iowa

DON BAUMAN
Dealer in Hogs
Your Patronage Appreciated
CONGRATULATIONS Butler County
on your Centennial Fair
Phone 2211 Allison, Iowa

History of the Allan Chevrolet Co., Inc.
of Allison, Iowa

Paul C. Schaeffer and Luke Groniga came to Allison from Parkersburg in September of 1928 and leased the Riggert building on East Main Street for a Chevrolet garage. The G. & S. Motor Company continued here until July 1st, 1929, when J. Francis Allan bought the Groniga interest and the S. & A. Chevrolet Company was formed.

The new company purchased the Lyon mill building located on West Main Street and fixed it over for use as a garage. In the new location Paul had charge of the sales and "Hiney" was in charge of the Service Department. Bill Reents was hired as a "Service Boy" and in a short time Henry Kalkwarf was employed as a mechanic. Eurie Moyer of Morrison, Iowa, was hired as bookkeeper.

On December 1st, 1929, Mrs. Allan began working in the office and continued working there until January 1st of 1946.

In July of 1932 Mr. Allan purchased Mr. Schaeffer's interest in the business, and the company name became the Allan Chevrolet Co.

As the business grew many improvements and additions were made. First the building was widened six feet to the south, then a basement and central heating plant were added under the west thirty feet of the building. The Hunter Lumber Company buildings located on the south half of the same block were purchased for warehousing. In October of 1940 the Shields building and the John Weiland building, located just south of the original garage building were purchased. The old buildings were torn down and an addition made to the garage building, making it 105 ft. x 100 ft. In 1948 the Service and Parts departments and body shop were moved into this newer part and the office was remodeled into the combination office and show room, as it is today.

On May 1st, 1947 the busines was incorporated and since that time has been known as the Allan Chevrolet Co., Inc.

On September 1st, 1949 Mr. Allan sold the old Hunter Lumber Company buildings to Leland Harms, and purchased from Mr. Harms the building located one block east of the Allison Tribune office. This building is used for a warehouse and is known as the Allan Used Car Exchange.

The Allan Chevrolet Co., Inc. now employes the following persons: Bill Wix, foreman of the Service department, who began working January 1st of 1937; Hiney Buss who came in 1943, Ernest Brinkman in 1944; Dale Porter of Ackley, Iowa; Don Wessels; and Bill Reents who recently returned to the employ of the company. These men do the mechanical work. Then there are three Service men who do washing, greasing and servicing of new cars. They are Wayne Endelman, Allie Frey and Clayton Brockway. Marshall Mosher began working as parts man in 1940, and still holds that position. Lawrence Koester, foreman of the body shop, began working for the corporation in 1939 and Freddie Bohlen who also works in the body shop, came to work in 1943. The Company has one full time bookkeeper, Charles Hardy of

BUTLER COUNTY R. E. A.

Our hats are off to the Butler County Centennial Fair and the surrounding community on 100 years of continuous progress.

We are proud to have had a part in raising the standard of living in your home life, of helping to improve the operations of your farms and at the same time to have increased the business opportunities of those business men in your locality.

Your R.E.A. is privately owned by those it serves. It is successfully managed by these people to the point of gradually and steadily improving the service. It is not subsidized, operating on a business basis and repaying every cent of its borrowed capital, with interest, as it becomes due.

It is organized strictly for your service on a non-discriminatory basis making an honest effort to bring the blessings of electricity to everyone in your community. Be proud of it.

Again we congratulate the Butler County Fair and the Community in which it is held on this their Centennial Anniversary.

BUTLER COUNTY R.E.A.

Clarksville, and Rouen Allan helps in this department part time. The Sales Manager is James Allan, who began working for the Company in 1941, and who has been a stockholder in the Corporation since 1949. Other employees in the Sales Department are Rolland Ritter of Aredale; Hugo Poppe and Harold Hardy of Clarksville, and Phil Shultz of Allison.

The Corporation maintains a used car lot and a Show Room in Clarksville, Iowa, as well as a used car lot in Allison.

During World War II several of the employees served in the Armed Forces, then returned to their jobs following their discharge. Among these men were Bill Wix, Lawrence Koester, Ernest Brinkman, Freddie Bohlen, Marshall Mosher and James Allan.

On January 1st, 1946, Mr. J. Francis Allan of the Allan Chevrolet Co., Allison, Iowa, moved his Oliver Farm Machinery business from his Chevrolet Garage on West Main Street, across the street into the Charles Miller building. Mrs. Allan, who had been the bookkeeper for the Allan Chevrolet Co. moved across into the office of the newly formed Allison Implement Co. Paul C. Schaeffer was employed as Manager of the Company and John Uhlenhopp was hired as mechanic and service man.

On May 1st, of 1947 the business was incorporated, and has been known since as the Allison Implement Co., Inc.

When Mr. Schaeffer left the company to take on other business interests, John Harms of Allison, Iowa, was engaged as manager, for a period of about three years. Shop men employed at various times were Lloyd Neal, Thomas Rodemaker and Willard Feltus.

In July of 1948 Bill Jacobs began working as parts man for the corporation. Later he started selling ma-

®
Let's talk SHOP...

You need sharp tools and farm equipment that is in good repair for real successful farming today. That's where I come into the picture again, Boss—I make the job of repairing and building easier and faster, and save you money at the same time. All you have to do is make sure your farm workshop has *electric insides.*

Plan for the basic power tools such as a grinder, drill and saw, and some of the portable electric tools that are practical for so many jobs. Be sure in planning your workshop that your wiring is adequate for lighting AND your electrical equipment. You will be spending more time in your shop these days getting things ready for spring —why not let me help you? My wages are low.

Reddy Kilowatt
® The Mighty Atom
Your Servant of the Century

IOWA PUBLIC SERVICE

chinery and when Mr. Harms left the employ of the corporation in 1950, Bill took over the selling job.

In September of 1951, Mr. Allan purchased the old Hemingson Produce Building located just north of the building which then housed the Implement Company. The old building was torn down, and a modern one with basement under the east 40′ was erected. The new building was rented by the Allison Implement Co., Inc., and its office, parts department and shop were moved into it, leaving the Miller building for storage and show room use. The corporation is still doing business in these two buildings.

On May 1st of 1955 Bill Jacobs and Rollo Crowther of Fairmont, Minnesota, purchased the Allison Implement Co., Inc. from Mr. and Mrs. Allan. Bill is now manager of the business and employes his father, Frank Jacobs as mechanic; Carl Lamb as Service Man, and Dallas DeBower as Parts Man and office assistant.

Allison Community Club

The Allison Community Club was organized in 1920, by about twenty women who first met to make dress forms. Mrs. O. B. Emerson was the first president, and meetings were held in homes until the club became too large for the homes to accomodate them.

Many projects for the improvement of the town has been carried out by this organization and it is always willing to co-operate with the schools or other organizations in public matters they undertake.

In 1932 when Miss Agnes Dailey, now Mrs. Frank Neal was President, the Club was federated. There were thirty-seven members at that time. The President for 1955-1956 is Mrs. Leona McCready, and there are seventy members.

There are three Charter members: Mrs. Elizabeth Trager, Mrs. Clara Toll and Mrs. Addie E. Shepard.

The Allison Creamery

In mentioning the various enterprises of Allison, the list would be incomplete without giving something concerning the Allison Creamery.

Every community with an enterprising spirit knows the need and the value of a good creamery, and there are few towns in Iowa that do not boast of a good factory of this nature.

Unlike many factories a creamery is not beneficial solely to the town. It is the farmer's friend, winter and summer he can look forward to the monthly check which is always dependable.

In times gone by Allison has had creameries run as private concerns, and also co-operative creameries which failed to make good, but now we have one of the best well conducted and most up to date creameries in the county. It is owned and operated by Robert White, who bought the building and the business in 1944.

In 1948 the creamery started the bottle milk business and has bottled milk for Allison, Clarksville and Bristow. In 1950 the business expanded into the ice

ALLISON READY-MIX PLANT
WAVERLY READY-MIX COMPANY

SUPERIOR CONCRETE FOR ALL PURPOSES

We use only the best of materials measured by weight in the correct proportions to give you the best quality concrete at the cheapest possible price.

OUR HAT'S OFF TO THE BUTLER COUNTY FAIR
ON ITS 100 YEARS OF PROGRESS

Phone 2371 Allison, Iowa

cream field and has continued the business as stated up to now. However for years since the creamery was first started, butter was its chief product, but through the changing times the producers have changed over from selling cream to selling the whole milk. Many small plants in Iowa have been consumed by larger plants due to the terrific investment which whole milk business demands. As of March 1, 1956 the local creamery ceased to process butter, but has continued on in Bottled Milk and ice cream.

The plant is operated by R. C. White, owner and James Green and Clifton Card, employers.

Trinity Reformed Church, Allison, Iowa

The Trinity Reformed Church is a congregation of "The Reformed Church in America" with headquarters at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N. Y. The Reformed Church in America is one of the first protestant organizations in the U. S. A. and stretches over our country from Fifth Avenue, New York, where the nationally known Marble Collegiate Church is located on 29th Street, to Los Angeles, California. The Marble Collegiate Church has given our country over 300 years continuous service.

The Trinity Reformed Church in Allison was organized May 23, 1948 and is only 8 years old. After the organization was effected it bought the church building and lot from the St. James Lutheran congregation, when their new church building across the street from our present church was erected. This congregation is the latest and thus the youngest church organization in Allison. The congregation has grown very rapidly and counts now 121 adult members and 108 baptized children. Besides these about 25 friends make this church their place of worship. The Sunday School has an enrollment of 129 and there are 17 children on the Cradle Roll. This young congregation is free of debt. Both the church and the parsonage have been paid for.

The first officers of the congregation were: Elders, John Ackerman and E. J. Heyenga; Deacons: Andrew Boelman and John Marks. Two installed pastors have served this congregation up to this time, the late Rev. J. M. De Vries from November 1948 to October 1952, and Rev. M. Weeldreyer from July 1953 to the present. On Sunday mornings the church is usually filled with worshippers. We have a very active Ladies Aid headed by Mrs. John Ackerman and a fine Young People's So-

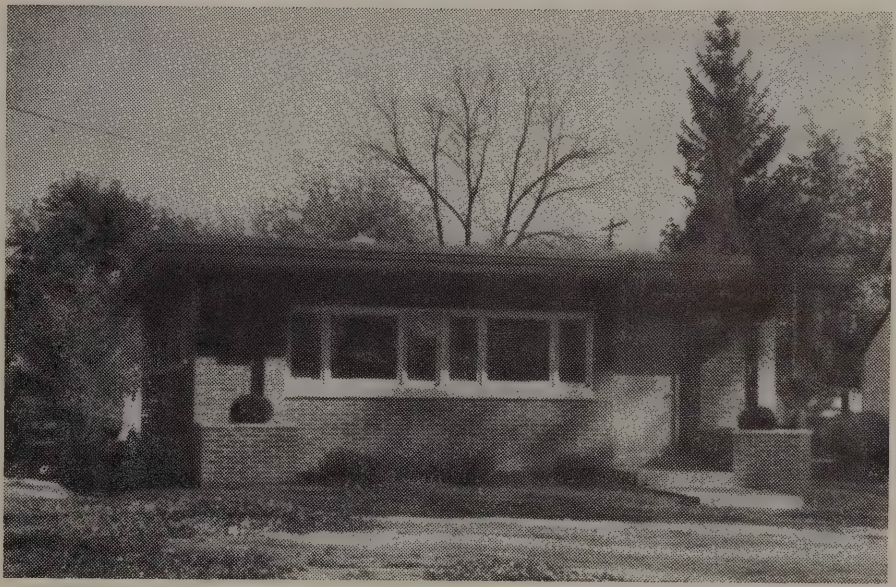
McKEAN MEDICAL CENTER

Frank F. McKean, M. D.

Physician and Surgeon

Allison, Iowa

Telephone 3641



Allan's Standard Service

★ GAS
★ OIL
★ TIRES
★ ACCESSORIES

Phone 4971 Allison, Iowa

HARMS & COURBAT

YOUR
CITIES SERVICE DISTRIBUTORS
Congratulates
The Butler County Fair
On 100 Years of Progress
Allison, Iowa

ciety headed at present by James Weeldreyer.

The present officers of the church are: Elders, John Ackerman, Ed Miller, George De Boer and Harry Harms; Deacons: John Marks, Carl Polk, Fred Bertram and George Busch.

The aim of the congregation is NOT TO WORK AGAINST our sister churches, but to work with them for the spiritual welfare of all in this community.

M. Weeldreyer

A Brief History of the St. James Lutheran Church

The St. James Lutheran Church was organized in the year 1891, after Pastor Conrad Weltner of Vilmar, Iowa, had preached in and around the Allison Community for at least one year prior to that date. The records show that twenty members formed the congregation in 1891. The twenty charter members were: Paul DeBower, Chris Hilmer, Fred Brennicke, William Rathmann, John Drogemueller, K. D. Kramer, William Bargfels, John Fred Buerkle, Harm Ackkermann, Arend Riemann, John Evers, Enno Evers, Henry Bargfels, H. Piies, D. Pulscher, Wilhelm Jakel, Conral Jakel, Henry Dralle, F. Schnegge and Louis Hummel. From 1891 until 1913 services were conducted in the former Methodist Church of Allison.

By 1913 the new congregation was ready to begin constructing its own House of Worship. A program calling for the erection of a church 35x60 feet, with a tall spire was adopted. A canvass of the members and of the business men of Allison, resulted in the raising of $4000. A building committee was appointed and by October of that same year the congregation was able to dedicate its new church. In 1926 a parsonage was acquired and this was conveniently located next to the church. Other improvements were added as time went on. Under God's blessing the congregation grew to where her present facilities were becoming inadequate. The first resident pastor was called in 1921.

It was in January 1947 that the congregation took another great stride forward when it decided to build the present church structure. The approximate cost of this project was $100,000 which includes the purchase price of the lots and the church furniture. Ground was broken for the 40x100.4 foot structure in May 1947, and the corner stone was laid October 5 of the same year. The new church was dedicated on Sunday, December 5, 1948.

Active societies in the congregation at present are the Ladies Aid with a membership of 56, the Women's Mission Society with a membership of 55, the Brotherhood with a membership of 37, the Luther League with a membership of 35, a choir with 23 members, a Sunday School with 224 members, and a Daily Vacation Bible School with 131.

Christian instruction has always been one of the chief concerns of this congregation. Junior confirmation instruction is being conducted every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning from the beginning of September until Easter of each year. Adult confirmation classes are being conducted from time to time. Sunday school

FULLERTON LUMBER COMPANY
HEADQUARTERS FOR
BUILDING MATERIALS --- PAINT --- COAL
NELSON'S MASTER ROOFS
Asphalt Shingles — Roll Roofing — Insulation

Think Now About Your New Home

ALLISON, IOWA BRISTOW, IOWA
2541 Phone 3002

classes are held for all age groups in the congregation. A cradle roll has been established.

Although the growth of this congregation has never been very spectacular, nevertheless, interesting facts and figures indicate that she has, by the grace of God, enjoyed steady growth throughout the years of her existence. The membership at present stands at 800 baptized and 568 confirmed.

The congregation has had four pastors during her 65 years of existence, and they are, Rev. C. Weltner from 1891-1921; Rev. A. C. Hoff in 1921; Rev. W. C. Nassen 1921-1945, and Rev. R. Niederwimmer from 1945 to the present.

The fiftieth anniversary was celebrated in 1941. The large number of children and young people in the congregation augurs well for the future of this Butler County congregation.

Congregational Church

On April 24, 1884 Rev. A. D. Keinzer, pastor of the Congregational Church in Hampton was invited to preach in Allison in the M. E. church on a Sunday when they were without a pastor. This was the first sermon by a Congregational preacher in Allison. In the summer of 1885 Rev. T. O. Douglass, state home Missionary sent Mr. W. H. Dumm to preach at Parkersburg and Allison, his first sermon was June 7, his farewell August 30, 1885.

After this there were no Congregational services till fall of 1886 when Rev. John Gray, who was the pastor at Parkersburg, arranged to preach at Allison once every four weeks. He urged the organization of a church, and on July 21, 1887 Rev. T. O. Douglass and other pastors of neighboring towns, joined with the few Congregationalists, in a council for the organization of the church. Seventeen persons were enrolled on the list of Charter members. A hall was rented over the Dodge building which was used as a meeting place for Sunday School and preaching services. A church choir was organized with W. A. Lathrop as leader and Mrs. Ethel A. Levis as organist.

The Allison Town Company donated a desirable lot for the site of the church on Main street. The church was built in year 1889 and dedicated Dec. 8, 1889, services conducted by Rev. T. O. Douglass, later the lots on the south and adjoining the church were purchased. The parsonage was built in 1900 at a cost of something over $1000.

In 1911-12 the church was raised and a basement constructed which provides rooms for the primary department of the Sunday School. Since then the church has had more remodeling and in 1955 the parsonage was sold to Lawrence Fick and moved away in preparation of building a more modern one.

There have been fourteen ministers since the Congregational and Methodist Churches have been associated: E. J. Starr, A. W. Henke, R. S. Haney, Edward A. Lang,

BUSS CITIES SERVICE

★ Greasing ★ Washing ★ Polishing

Complete Service

Phone 3612

Allison, Iowa

SPEEDY BROTHERS

Live Stock Dealers

Congratulations to the Butler County Fair

on its Centennial

Phone 3751 Allison, Iowa

OPPERMAN'S MARKET

FANCY GROCERIES

MEATS

VEGETABLES

FRUIT

A Good Place to Trade

Congratulations Butler County Fair

on your Centennial Year

Allison, Iowa

O. B. Preston, Jesse Kauffmann, Benj. B. Hoyt, Carl Schlesselman, Noel Orcutt, John Schortinghaus, Frederick Clark, Byron Wright, E. R. Holden, Fernando Laxamana.

Allison Amvets Auxiliary No. 88

Shortly after the beginning of World War II a small group of Eldora, Iowa women, mostly mothers of boys who had entered the service of our country, met for the purpose of doing what they could to keep up the morale of their boys, to aid in the war effort wherever possible and to comfort one another. Other mothers, wives, and sisters wished to assist in this worthy work and as a result a large organization was formed and from this grew the Iowa United Service Women.

In May of 1942, a group of women representing various parts of the State met in Des Moines to discuss the possibility of a State organization. Mrs. Carl Rice of Allison was one of this group and through her efforts on June 2, 1942, the second unit in the State was organized in Allison. Mrs. P. E. Shultz was its first President, Mrs. Howard Wehrhan, Vice President, and Miss Miriam Wilder Secretary-Treasurer. At the second meeting Miss Wilder resigned and Mrs. James Allan assumed this office.

Application was made for a Unit Charter entitling this group to the name, benefits, obligations, and full membership in this Society. On the 13th of May, 1942 the following names were written on said application: Mrs. Carl A. Rice, Mrs. Haword Wehrhan, Mrs. Richard Speedy, Mrs. Wilhelmina Van Dyke, Mrs. Frank Folkers, Mrs. Ernest M. Speedy, Mrs. Chas. Benter, Lucy L. Benter, Mrs. George T. Wilder, Miriam C. Wilder, Mrs. Frank Hummel, Mrs. Elsia L. Parsons, Mrs. Eldon Diehl, Mrs. Henry Buss, Mrs. Phil Shultz, Mrs. Fred Prange, Mrs. Theo. Wente, Mrs. C. W. Shipton, Mrs. Gladys Codner, Mrs. Dick Aissen, Mrs. Enno Endelman, Mrs. Howard Briney, Mrs. John Schoneman, Mrs. Will Reents, Mrs. John Helt, Mrs. Ervin Knoll, Mrs. Louis Freeseman, Mrs. Frank Allison, Mrs. Eldo Wiegman, Mrs. Austin Williams, Mrs. Johanne Reents, Mrs. James Allan, Viola Schrage, Mrs. E. W. Schrage, Mrs. George Jensen, Mrs. Verle Bettesworth, Mrs. Arnold Buss, Mrs. Ralph Van Raden, Mrs. Henry Ruehaak, Anna Reiken, Mrs. Elbe Anderson, Mrs. Caroline Folkers, Mrs. Hulda Steer, and Mrs. Raymond Pronge.

In 1946 the Amvets invited the United Service Women to become their Auxiliary. We functioned as a separate unit until April of 1947, when the local veterans organized an Amvet Post. At a special meeting of the Auxiliary on April 18, 1947, it was voted to give the veterans $100.00 to help in their organization work.

The first officers to serve the Auxiliary were, Pres. Mrs. Howard Wehrhan, Vice President, Mrs. Louise Riggert, Secretary, Mrs. Eldon Diehl; Treasurer, Mrs. Harve Speedy; Chaplain, Mrs. Poldeboer; Sargent at Arms, Mrs. H. Opperman.

On September 9, 1947 the Amvets Auxiliary received their charter with the following names attached

MARIE'S SHOP

★ GIFTS — ★ Ready-To-Wear
Your Business Appreciated
Allison, Iowa Phone 3301

WEIRES & WEIRES

VETERINARIANS
Clarksville Allison

HOODJER BROTHERS

Dragline Service
Ditching — Tiling — Excavating
Sand — Gravel
Phone 3311
Allison Iowa

CULLIGAN
SOFT WATER SERVICE

Kenneth R. Smith
Phone 4171
Serves All Butler County
Allison Iowa

Margaret Speedy, Genevieve Wehrhan, Lulu Hagerty, Louise Riggert, Wilma Opperman Minnie Schrage, Hulda Steer, Minnie Brinkman, Ada Hummel, Clara Mosher, Sadie Poldeboer, Clara Dailey, Philippa Speedy, Elsia Parsons, Lenora Diehl and Margaret Wintz.

On May 13, 1947 a special program was given honoring the five Gold Star Mothers in the Allison community or formerly from the community, at which time these mothers were presented Gold Star Pins. A special tribute was given to the following: Willie Pronge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Pronge; Robert Opperman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Opperman, James Rice, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rice, Carl Hoodjer, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hoodjer, and Jacob Kampman, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Kampman.

Amvets Auxiliary has continued through the years to furnish materials for hospital work and provide assistance to the Amvets in whatever ways they could.

The 1956 officers are as follows: Gail Henrichs, President; Leone Bohlen, 1st Vice President; Marjorie Cordes, 2nd Vice President; Shirley Doeden, Secretary; Duwanna Lamb, Treasurer; Helen DeBower, Sgt-at-Arms; Anna DeBower, Chaplain; Elaine Miller, Historian; Marjorie Harms, P. R. O.; Anna Green, Parliamentarian. At the present time there are forty members.

Shirley Doeden Sec'y.

ALLISON AMVETS

Veterans of World War II

AMVETS has been a healthy young organization since birth. AMVETS was founded December 10, 1944 when representatives of independent veterans' groups in 9 states got together, formed a National organization and adopted the name "American Veterans of World War II" which received the nick-name AMVETS when a newspaper man was unable to fit "American Veterans of World War II" into a headline.

AMVETS is the only veterans group of World War II-Korea granted a National Charter. AMVETS was conceived by men who said "We Served Together, Now Lets Build Together." Our basic aims are to promote the American way of life; to preserve world peace; and to help the veteran help himself. We strive to attain these aims. The purpose of the AMVETS is to give veterans of this war a chance to meet with fellows of their own age and experiences and to think and act toward helping preserve the things they were fighting for.

The Allison AMVETS first meeting was held April 17, 1947 at the city hall with 30 veterans in attendance. On April 24, 1947 Eldon Diehl was appointed temporary Commander. On May 9, 1947 Mr. Diehl was elected Commander along with the following: H. Herschel Opperman, vice-commander; Dick Scheaffer, Adjutant; Reid Wilder, Judge Advocate; Carl Scott, provost marshal and Clair Speedy, finance officer. That same evening 35 members signed the charter.

On May 28, 1947 the charter for membership of the Allison AMVET Post 88 was closed with the following

Authorized Surge Service

MILKERS — WATER HEATERS

PARLOR STALLS

SYPHON SYSTEMS

Bob Roelf, Dealer

Allison Phone 3111 Iowa

Allison Creamery & Dairy

Clarksville — Allison — Bristow

R. C. White, Proprietor

CONGRATULATIONS

Allison Iowa

Pure Bred Chester Whites

Modern Type — Size — Quality

Farmers Like the Kind we Raise

We Raise the Kind the Farmers Like

We Keep the Pork Chop Up To Date

Emmett Allan Allison, Iowa

FOR CORN SHELLING

SEE

JOHN WEIGMAN

Allison Phone 2301 Iowa

1929 CHEVROLET 1956

Sales Service

Congratulations

to

Butler County Fair Association on 100 Years of Progress

ALLAN
CHEVROLET
CHEVROLET

We Trade Anytime Anywhere

Your Chevrolet Dealer

For

Twenty Seven Years

ALLAN CHEVROLET CO., INC.

Allison **Iowa**

names attached: James Allan, Alvin Aswegan, Freddie Bohlen, Richard Busse, Victor Busse, Harry Codner, George Courbat, Delbert DeBower, Eldon Diehl, Omke Doeden, Harry Dralle, Dean Hagerty, Marshall Harlan, John Harms, Vernon Harms, Warren Henrichs, Russel Hummel, Bill Jacobs, Walter Kemming, Chas. Konig, Vern Konig, Robert Klunder, Melvin Kramer, Marvin Lore, Chas. Mosher, Jack Opperman, H. Herschel Opperman, Earl Poppen, Robert Ressler, Richard Scheaffer, Eugene Schrage, Carl Scott, Lester Shepard, Robert Shultz, Kenneth Smith, Clair Speedy, Merlyn Voigts, Maurice Wehrhan, Reid Wilder, Lucien Wilson, Merlyn Benter, Donald Fistler, N. E. Hyland, Chas. Burma, Edo Miller, C. Fishel, Paul Riggert, Gustav Riggert and E. Crawford.

Through the winter of 1948-1949 the AMVETS purchased five lots in the northwest part of Allison from Clarence Folkers. In May, 1949 work was being started on a new Allison AMVET home. The frame building has a cement block foundation and its dimensions are 52 by 32 feet with a 10 foot ceiling. The structure is insulated and the inside is finished with paneled ply wood, and has oak flooring. The home contains a recreation room, a kitchen, which was equipped by the AMVET AUXILIARY, and rest rooms. The building is heated with an oil furnace. Estimated cost is $8000.00. Much labor was donated by members. Members of the building committee were Maurice Wehrhan, Melvin Kramer, Eldon Diehl, John Harms and Fred Bond. On July 7, 1949 the first AMVET meeting was held in the basement of the new home. At the September 3, 1953 meeting the financial report showed the note against the building had been retired. During the winter of 1955 remodeling was done to the home.

The membership of the Allison AMVETS to date is 75 which is their quota. The following are the present officers: Commander, Merlyn Voigts; 1st vice, Warren Henrichs; 2nd vice, Dean Hagerty; 3rd vice, Maurice Wehrhan; 4th vice, Dean Wiegman; Adjutant, James Green; Finance officer, Clair Speedy; Provost Marshall, Roger DeBower; Chaplain, Alvin Bohlen; Historian, Reid Wilder; Public relations, Robert Klunder; Judge Advocate, Judge C. H. Wild; Service Officer, Armin Buls.

James Green, Adjutant

THE ALLISON TRIBUNE

The Allison Tribune will on June 16, 1956, complete seventy-five years of existence. Since the Town of Allison was incorporated in 1881, the anniversaries of The Allison Tribune and the town are synonymous, although the newspaper is several months older than the Incorporated Town.

In 1880, Frank L. and Fred A. Dodge, known as the Dodge Brothers, instituted a job printing plant here. On June 16, 1881, The Allison Tribune came into being, with Frank L. Dodge as the managing editor.

For many years the newspaper consisted of four pages, with an eight column format. Two pages were printed in the local shop and two pages came from Chi-

REIHER AND VAN RADEN

Hog Buying

Phone 3341

Local and Distant Livestock Transportation
Day or Night Service
10-hs. Service to Chicago

Purina Chows — Custom Grinding and Mixing

May We Congratulate Butler County
on its 100 years of
Continuous Fair's

Allison, Iowa

Night Phone — 4501—4941—3351

cago, called "Ready Print." The format of the paper has changed from time to time during the ensuing years. From the eight-columns of the first issue the size went to an eight-page affair, with four pages of ready print, in a six-column per page size. For a time a seven-column, all-home printed paper was issued. During the past eight years, however, The Allison Tribune has been stabilized in size to the six-column page, with the number of pages varying between eight, ten, twelve, and on one occasion, April 20, 1955, a sixteen page paper was issued.

The destines of The Allison Tribune have risen and fallen with the prevailing prosperity of the state, nation and the immediate community throughout the years. The stewardship has changed many times since 1881. After the Dodge Brothers, the list includes E. E. Schrack, C. S. Linn, E. W. Wright, Amos Ingalls, L. R. Linn, Mitchell and Mitchell, M. D. Morgan, E. W. Booten, Shepard and Gregory, H. Folken, W. J. Hunt, J. L. McWilliams, A. J. Kirkpatrick, A. L. and J. Rowen, W. T. Davidson, Maurice and Ruth Jones, Paul and Katherine Mason, and the present owners, Erwin L. and Grace L. Klingbeil, who purchased the newspaper in November of 1949.

Throughout the years of its existence many changes in journalistic procedures have occurred. The frank and often times offensive lambasting of individuals and organizations has been relegated into the dead past, known as the "good old days." Generally speaking, today's newspaper is in the business of promoting the things that make for a better and more peaceful way of life, not for a chosen few, but for humanity as a whole. The problems that affect a community's transquillity are reflected in the rural as well as in the urban areas. Today's rural area newspaper are cognizant of the farmer's problems as being as vital to their existence as anything in its immediate environs.

The promotion of schools to better educate students from the rural areas is rapidly coming into being in all towns of Butler County, as is evidenced by the consolidations at Allison, Aplington, Shell Rock, Parkersburg and Dumont and the impending efforts at Greene and Clarksville. At least a part of the sucess of these ventures is directly attributable to the newspapers in the several communities concerned.

The growth and expansion of the Butler County Fair, which this year is celebrating its centennial, must also be credited in some degree to all of the journalistic outlets in the county. It is with a great deal of pride that we point to the efforts of a hardworking, progressive group of officers and directors of the Butler County Agricultural and Horticultural Society, on this, the 100th anniversary of its origination.

State Bank of Allison

The State Bank of Allison, commemerated its seventy-fifth anniversary on April 4, 1956.

Records show that the bank began doing business under the name of Ridgeway, Perrin & Slimmer on April 4, 1881. N. B. Ridgeway, Jeremiah Perrin and Abraham

THERMOGAS COMPANY
of Allison

Means Better Living

Beyond the Gas Mains

Independent L-P Gas Service Anywhere

— FOR —

Heating — Cooking — Refrigeration

Brooding, Crop Drying and Tractor Fuel

It's Economical, Clean and Safe

Cylinder or Bulk Service

COMPLETE LINE OF APPLIANCES

Allison Iowa

Iowa Certified Seed

The Best in
Seed Oats
Grasses
&
Legumes

IOWA Certified SEED

Headquarters
for
Custom
Cleaning &
Treating

"Quality Seed at Farmer Prices"

HAROLD A. FOLKERTS

Phone Bristow 2503 Allison, Iowa

Slimmer, were the first owners and it was operated as a private bank which was the custom at that time. Isaac Lucas was the first cashier and he served in that position until 1882. At that time W. A. Lathrop and John W. Ray, whose term as county treasurer had just expired, became associated with the institution. The firm name was changed to Lathrop, Perrin & Company. J. W. Ray assumed the duties of cashier when I. E. Lucas retired.

The bank of Allison, was capitalized at $15,000.00, when it first started. In 1882, the capitalization was changed to $25,000.00

The partnership continued until the death of Mr. Ridgeway at which time his interests were acquired from the estate by the surviving partner. A few years later Mr. Lathrop withdrew from the firm and started a private bank. Associated with him were S. N. Goodhue, George W. Wild, and I. M. Fisher. The institution assumed the name of Citizens Bank and the firm name was Lathrop, Goodhue & Company. This concern continued in operation about three years, when it was sold to the Ray Banking Company. During the existence of the Citizens Bank, Herman F. Wild was its cashier.

After the retirement of Mr. Lathrop from the Bank of Allison the firm name became Slimmer, Perrin & Company. J. W. Ray remained as cashier and active manager until new arrangements became necessary by the dissolution of the partnership, when the firm name was changed to that of J. W. Ray and sons.

This partnership continued until 1901 when the members of the firm incorporated as the State Bank of Allison, with a paid up capital of $50,000.00 and a surplus of $10,000.00 The first officials were: J. W. Ray, President; W. F. Ray, vice president; F. J. Ray, cashier; and H. F. Wild, assistant cashier. Upon the death of J. W. Ray in September 1907, W. F. Ray was elected president; H. F. Wild, vice-president; and F. J. Ray, cashier. Ernest Speedy was appointed assistant cashier in November 1912. He remained with the bank until 1936, when he retired because of ill health.

In Oct. of 1912, the assets of the Farmers Saving Bank, including the two-story brick building now occupied by Weires & Weires, were taken over by the State Bank of Allison.

In 1920, the Ray family sold its interest in the bank to O. L. Whitlatch who was elected president. He retained that office until his death in April of 1952. George L. Arnold was elected vice president in 1941 and still retains that position. John McWhirter was elected president in July 1952.

During recent weeks, the interior of the bank has been extensively re-decorated, and in the past year a considerable amount of modern equipment has been added.

ALLISON AIRPORT

In 1948 Eldon Diehl and Chas. You. rented a strip

PURE BRED DUROCS
We Breed, Feed, Raise and Sell
The Kind of Stock
Good Hog Men Demand
John W. Allan S. Edge Allison

LEONARD H. STEER

SEED PIONEER CORN

Hy-Line® Authorized Distributor

Certified Seed Oats

Fertilizer's for the Farm

Phone 4545 Allison, Iowa

Congratulations to the

Butler County Fair on its

100th Anniversary

May we help you grow to be even

greater in the years to come

BUTLER COUNTY FARM

BUREAU

ORGANIZED DECEMBER 12, 1917

ALLISON, IOWA

of land, running North and South from William Dralle Northwest of the town of Allison to be used by them for a landing strip and at about the same time they constructed a hangar. Each of them have kept an airplane there since that time.

In 1955 Lester Van Raden, Russell Hummel, James Allan, Jack Brandt, J. Francis Allan and K. W. Brandt rented another strip of land from Paul DeBower, Jr. running East & West and which joined with the other landing strip to form a "T." They also constructed a hangar, and at the present time have two airplanes in it.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Metzar-Opperman Unit No. 253

Members of the newly organized American Legion Post of Allison, with the wives, held a social meeting in the basement of the Associated Churches on April 29, 1921, for the purpose of organizing a Women's Auxiliary. Mrs. Dana Wilder was elected temporary president and Viola Folkers secretary. Mrs. J. B. Isaacson was later elected vice-president. Membership in the newly formed organization was restricted to the wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of members of the American Legion. Mr. Clyde Flood made the first gavel for the use of the new organization.

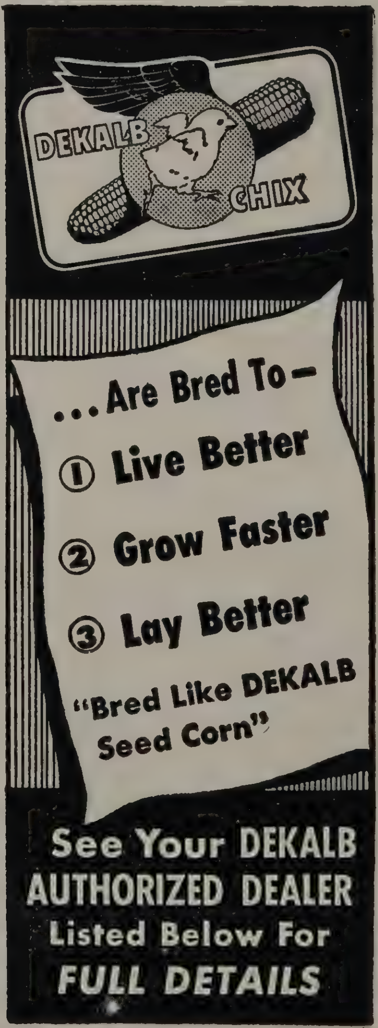
The original charter contains the names of twenty-two women, five of whom are still members of the Allison Unit, namely Mrs. Libbie Newbury, M. Eva Weires, Mrs. Hazel Hill, Mrs. Anna Hunter and Mrs. Ann Werner. The other charter members were Mrs. Lurenia L. Burch, Mrs. Margaret Buroker, Mrs. Marie J. Dreher, Miss Jennie Early, Mrs. Isabel Isaacson, Mrs. Gail O. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Lucile R. McWhirter, Mrs. Viola F. Nicholas, Mrs. Fern L. Peet, Mrs. Hester S. Richards, Mrs. Dave Stevenson, Jr., Mrs. Eva Jane Spengler, Mrs. Ellen M. Weires, Miss C. Harriett Weires, Miss Nelle B. Weires, Mrs. Ruth H. Wilder and Mrs. Lottie G. Winegar.

The local Unit is proud to have a part in carrying out the programs stressed by the National Department of the American Legion Auxiliary, among which are Child Welfare, Rehabilitation and Americanism. Emphasis is also placed upon Community Service. A poppy window

DEKALB

The
BEST BUY
in
seed corn
is the
BEST SEED CORN
you can buy . . .

DEKALB
order yours from—


DEKALB
CHIX
. . . Are Bred To —
① Live Better
② Grow Faster
③ Lay Better
"Bred Like DEKALB Seed Corn"
See Your DEKALB AUTHORIZED DEALER Listed Below For FULL DETAILS

DEALERS
John Ackerman — Allison
Chester Harmon — New Hartford
Chris Uhlenhopp — Kesley
Fred Wiebke — Allison

is decorated every year, and veteran-made poppies are sold near Memorial Day each year. The proceeds from the sale are divided, part going to the disabled veterans who made the poppies, part to the Iowa Department for Hospital Work, and part staying in the Unit Rehabilitation work such as aid to veterans and their families where needed, hospital supplies, and the sending of such items as carpet rags, cookies, holiday gifts, etc. to Veteran's Hospitals and the Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown.

The Americanism Committee each year has a flag-raising ceremony on the first day of school, and a speaker is supplied for a special patriotic program at school for one or more special days, such as Washington's Birthday. To this the public is invited.

The Unit during the years has sponsored many local projects, some of which were co-operating with other organizations in establishing a public library, raising money to purchase a bass horn for the school band, assisting in the annual May Day Observation for the youth of Allison, co-operating with other groups in maintaining a Recreation Committee for the town, and in planning and executing, with the Legion, the annual Memorial Day observance.

The Post was assisted by the Auxiliary in freeing the Legion Hall of debt, a mortgage-burning ceremony being held some years ago. The Auxiliary also purchased a piano for the building and the curtains for the stage.

A Superior rating from the Iowa Department has been received year by year, practically without exception.

The original charter was issued under the name of Oliver Metzgar Unit No. 253, but in 1947 the name of the Post, and consequently of the Unit, was changed to read Metzgar-Opperman Post (and Unit) No. 253. The Auxiliary was issued a new charter to conform to the new name, which it now bears.

American Legion — Allison

The original charter for the American Legion Post of Allison was issued November 20, 1920, with thirty-nine charter members: John C. Dailey, Fred J. Wieres, David Burch, Christ F. Shirer, W. H. Nicholas, Glenn W. Richards, E. M. Johnson, George R. Peet, Peter G. Ebert, Clayton Peet, Arthur W. Benter, A. F. Fabor, Ed Stemmerman, Eugene Scott, Clyde Flood, D. E. Wilder, J. F. Hayenga, Ralph Van Raden, Paul H. Jones, J. M. Wieres, L. T. Buroker, K. H. Weltner, A. J. Kirkpatrick, P. H. Hilmer, Edward E. Dewey, P. A. Wieres, Fred Wiegman, E W. Wieres, Raymond I. Burbridge, Ed Rheinegins, Milo Flanigen, Vernerd E. Rogers, Chris Brocka, Fred Wilson, Dave Kramer, J. B. Wieres, Harry S. Hummel, Arthur Bell, Willard Flynn. It was named Oliver Metzgar Post No. 253. of Allison in memory of Oliver Metzgar who was the first Veteran from this area, killed in World War I. The first meetings were held at the Bank. In January of 1925 the present Legion building was bought from W. H. Nicholas. The down payments were made from donations received from Business Houses and individuals. In 1934 the building was remodeled. In 1940 the first County Legion meeting was held and organized with Paul Schaeffer as the first County Commander. In 1946 it was voted to change the name to Metzgar-Opperman in memory

CARL O. SCOTT

BULLDOZING — LAND CLEANING

Up to date Heavy Equipment

Phone 3451

Allison Iowa

Congratulations to the
Butler County Fair
on its Centennial Year

SHIPP BROS. CO.

Mobile Homes Sales & Service

1851 Independence Ave. on U. S. 20
Waterloo, Iowa

of Robert Opperman who was killed during World War II. The present Legion Post has a membership of 103 with Frank Schoneman as the commander.

Northwestern Bell Telephone Company of Allison

The first switchboard in Allison was in 1890, and was located in Arnold Bros. store and belonged to the Cedar Valley Telephone Company. At that time there were very few telephones and everyone had to go to Arnold's store to place their long distance calls. W. F. Ray was the first one to have a telephone installed in his home.

In 1896 the first real telephone office was established in what was the Buroker building and the name was changed to "The Corn Belt Company". It was later moved to the Digman House.

In 1916 the name was changed to "The Iowa Telephone Company and in 1921 given its permanent name "The Northwestern Bell Telephone Company." Rates were $1.00 for home and $1.75 for business places.

The telephone office was located in 1912 in the Lathrop building where the Butler County Abstract Company built in 1955. Fred Duval of Waverly was the first manager at this place and Miss Mary Stevenson was the first switchboard operator. She was made manager in 1920, which position she held till retirement in 1944, making her have 32 years of continuous telephone service. In the meantime in December 1937, the telephone office was moved to the Davison residence and continued there until the Dial System was installed in February 1948.

In 1931 there were 344 subscribers, in 1948, 429; and in 1956, 599 subscribers. The local calls are all taken care of mechanically through the office erected here in 1947-1948. The only time Waverly is called is for long distance. Waverly Operator Office manages Allison and does maintenance plant work. In 1948 there were four long distance lines to Waverly, now there are seven, and one more being added in 1956.

RINGLING BROS. CIRCUS

By Marsall B. Craig

1889 — How many Butler County folks know that Ringling Brothers Circus once showed in Allison? Well, it did, and I remember the occasion as though it happened yesterday. To-day's 'Greatest Show On Earth' was then a wagon show; the 'big top' was a 'little top', with only one ring, a trapeze or two, some mighty sleek mounts, and one elephant; and, of course, the buffoons. Yes, and I remember a camel with his two humps, and a 'flock' of trained canines of various species.

How did Ringling's Circus happen to show in Allison? The great circus was booked for Hampton, then Waverly, but the haul over those primitive roads was too much. The Butler County Fair was in progress, so the circus stopped and put on a great performance in Allison, with parade and all the trimmings.

My father was Mayor of the town, and I remember John and Alf Ringling coming to his office (over the Wild & Company store at the southwest corner of 4th and Main Streets), applying for a license, and of course, leaving the usual 'comps.' The hour was about 10:00 A.M. I had planned to go to the Fair Grounds with my father, but the unloading and setting up of the circus was a far greater attraction. So up the street we went to the circus grounds at the southeast corner of 6th & Main Streets, and with eyes and ears 'agog', I witnessed the unloading, building the one ring, lifting the 'big top,' the feats of the professional stake drivers, and wished I was big enough to carry water to the elephant. About 1:00 P.M., the parade formed, made exit from the circus grounds at Elm Street, then over to Main southward to the Fair Grounds, around the race track and back to the circus grounds with the 6 piece band on a gaily colored wagon in the lead and the ever present calliope bringing up the rear. No advance men, nor bill-boards were necessary. This was publicity enough to put up the S. R. O. sign. There was no afternoon performance to detract from the Fair.

That night the great show was on. The band and the barkers did their stuff; the crowd extended into the Court House yard. "Right this way — see it all for a dime — the tenth part of a dollar — the great Ringling museum — the dog faced boy — Esau, the snake eater — the Fiji Islanders". I didn't miss any of it. Then into the 'big top'. The clowns, the equestrians, the trapeze performers . . . But the great day must come to an end; and the circus "Shall fold their tents, like the Arabs, and silently steal way". On to Waverly!

Few Fair visitors from out of town drove home that night until after the performance was over, and those cows on the farms just had to wait; and if Mamma didn't come to the Fair with Dad that day, she had many anxieties as to his tardiness, and did Dad have to think fast to tell his story when he arrived home?

But Allison remained circus minded for many a moon. The ring was still on the lot, and was the Saturday afternoon playground for 'young America' to put on a home talent performance. I was too small to do other than occupy a 'ring side' seat, but I remember Frank Ray and his pony, Tim, as they circled the ring. Tim bolted the track, taking cart and all, but Frank abandoned the cart when it went over the hump. He hung onto the reins and was dragged across the lot to Elm Street, where he was rescued by Bert Hyde. All survived.

AND THIS IS THE STORY OF THE STELLAR ROLE OF THE BUTLER COUNTY FAIR OF 1889.

A little human interest story may be in order. The ring master and chief equestrian of the Ringling Circus of 1889 was a Civil War (Cavalry) 'buddie' of one of Allison's prominent citizens of that time, Mr. L. J. Rogers, who was Butler County Treasurer, and later, Postmaster at Allison. Mr. Rogers and the Ringling equestrian were both natives of Baraboo, Wisconsin; the home of the Ringlings.

Aplington and Monroe Township

By Sylvia Martin

The first settlement in Monroe township was made in 1854 by Walter Clayton who erected a log house on the northwest quarter of section 28. This cabin, the first hotel in this part of the country, was called Half Way House, being so named because of its location midway between Cedar Falls and Iowa Falls. A basswood board with the name written on it in red chalk was nailed to a stake in front of the house. It is said that often as many as twenty travelers were accommodated in the one room of this little shanty where on account of the low ceiling the guests were obliged to kneel while dressing. In 1856, Clayton built another log house with two rooms on the ground floor and two above. The same year a stage route was established past his hotel and this became a regular station on the route. It was known thereafter as Elk Horn Tavern from an elk horn which hung over the entrance. Other early settlers in this township were Thomas Nash, Anthony Howard, Solomon Cinnamon, Nathan Linn, Peter McMahon and J. H. Kerns. After the Civil War the township settled rapidly and in the early 80's many German emigrants came.

Some first happenings were: The first birth in the township was Winfield Scott Clayton, a son of Walter and Rachel Clayton, who was born June 10, 1855. The first marriage was that of Richard Parriott and Lilly Caldwell on July 19, 1856. The bridegroom was killed in the Civil War in 1863. Two deaths occurred on October 14, 1859, Catherine Bisbee and Sarah Howard. They were buried on the same day in the Aplington cemetery which was laid out in 1857, the land being given for that purpose by Thomas Nash.

Monroe township, then including Monroe and Washington, was organized March 3, 1856 and in 1860 Washington was separated from Monroe. The name for the township was suggested by J. M. Caldwell whose middle name was Monroe. The first election in the township was held at the Caldwell home in April, 1856. At this election an oyster can was used as a ballot box. A mail route was established in 1855 and carried on horseback through to Iowa Falls and Fort Dodge until 1857 when the stage company of Fink and Walker commenced running their heavy stage coaches over the line.

In the summer of 1857, the village of Aplington was laid out and platted by its proprietors, Thomas Nash, R. R. Parriott, Zenos Aplington, and Theodore Wilson, on section 29. It was recorded on the 2nd of February, 1858. The town was named in honor of Zenos Aplington, a resident of Illinois, who never lived here. He owned part of the land, however, and took a lively interest in the town's welfare until his death which occurred while serving his country in the Civil War. The first building erected in Aplington was built and a stock of merchandise furnished by Zenos Aplington in 1856 on the south side of Parriott Street. The same year a blacksmith forge was set up in a roofless sod house.

Fecht Motor Company

De Soto — Plymouth

Phone 78 W

Aplington Iowa

WILLIAM DE BOER

General Trucking

DEALERS IN LIVESTOCK

Aplington Phone 23F21 Iowa

PAUL WAUGHTAL

COUNTRY CLUB BEER

Aplington Iowa

STATE SAVINGS BANK

The Bank of Friendly Service

Checking and Savings Accounts

Commercial Loans

Livestock Loans

Bank By Mail

Insurance

MEMBER OF F.D.I.C.

Aplington Iowa

Hotel. Aplington, Iowa

Mrs. Rachel Quinn built and presided over the first hotel in 1858. It was later bought by Henry Kerns and used as his residence. The first grain elevator was built by Alonzo McKey at the time of the coming of the Illinois Central Railroad in 1865. The depot was not built until two years later. In the meantime, McKey who ran a general store as well as the elevator, acted as agent for the railroad company and maintained an office in his store. The Aplington postoffice was established in 1858 and the first postmaster was Chester Stilson who kept the office in his store. One of the early doctors of the county was Dr. E. L. Blackmore, who came to Aplington in 1873.

Aplington Public School until 1914

The first school was held in the winter of 1856-57 in a log shanty on section 19 belonging to Mr. Caldwell with L. P. Hazen as teacher. In 1859 two schoolhouses were erected, one at Parriott's Grove on section 30 and the other in the eastern part of the village of Aplington. In a few years the house was too small for the increasing attendance and the primary class met in the barroom of Quinn's Hotel for several terms, after that over one of the stores. In 1877 "a commodious structure was erected on a rise of ground in the southern part of the village" which served until 1917 when a brick building was built. An account of 1882 shows that Aplington then employed two teachers, the principal receiving $405 per year. The first high school was only for two grades but in 1911 it was increased to four years and a class of two boys graduated.

APLINGTON HARDWARE
GENERAL HARDWARE
Les Ostercamp, Prop. Phone 53

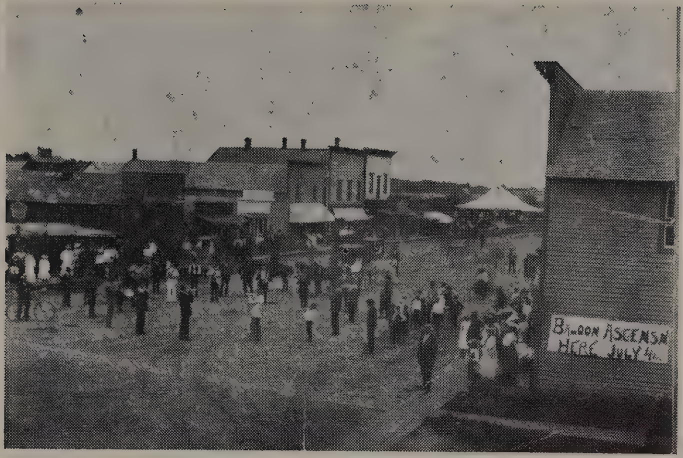
HERB HARKEN STANDARD SERVICE
GAS — OIL — TIRES
Phone 170 Aplington, Iowa

MEINDERS
General Merchandise
Phone 167
Aplington Iowa

MEYER AUTO CO.
Aplington, Iowa Phone 24

VAN'S FOOD STORE
Groceries - Fruits - Vegetables - Meats
Quality Food at Lowest Prices
Phone 34
Aplington Iowa

HARKEN LUMBER CO.
FOR QUALITY MERCHANDISE
and
SUDDEN SERVICE
Call Your Lumber Number 45
Aplington, Iowa



Aplington Main Street around 1898

The first religious services were held in J. M. Caldwell's barn. The good women of the township wanted a sermon from some source. A minister to perform regular service every Sabbath could not be supported so Mr. Parriott mounted a horse and set out into Hardin County for Rev. Crippen who could come only during the week. The signal for their return was to be a blast from the Parriott's dinner horn. The sound of the horn the next afternoon apprised the settlers that the minister was in sight. Oxen and horses were turned to graze while the bare-footed, ragged pioneers assembled to hear the gospel expounded. The first religious organization to be established in town was the Methodist Church, the forerunner being a series of meetings held at the Parriott home by a circuit rider. At first services were held in the schoolhouse, but in 1870 a church was erected on lots donated by E. Y. Royce. Later the Methodist Church disbanded and the property was sold to the German Reformed Church which was organized in 1908 with Rev. Zindler as pastor. Catholic services were held in homes until 1872 when a church was built, but the priest did not live here but came from Waverly. The church and lot was later purchased by Martin Lindaman and some of the material was used for building his home. The Presbyterian Church was organized in 1869 and held meetings in the schoolhouse and the Methodist Church until 1889 when their church was built. The German Baptist Church was organized at a schoolhouse south of town in 1874, but in 1884 a church building was erected in Aplington.

The greatest disaster to the town occurred on March 1, 1901 when a fire broke out in the livery barn where the Lindaman Produce building is today. There was a strong northwest wind which carried the fire along Parriott or Main Street burning everything but the Exchange Bank which was the only brick building in town at that time. A temperature of 30 degrees below zero and no fire fighting equipment were serious handicaps in controlling the fire. All the people watched their own houses because lighted sparks were falling all over town and nothing could be done to stop the fire on Main Street. An ice house burned down but the ice with saw dust packed around it stayed there. No houses burned.

Dreyer Furniture Company

Quality Furniture Since 1911

L. W. Dreyer, Owner

Phone 52 Aplington, Iowa

MEYER & MULLER

Dragline—Truck Service—Sand—Rock

Phone 37 or 133 Aplington, Iowa

DREYER DRUG CO.

Drugs - Gifts - Wallpaper - Ice Cream

Phone 75 W

Aplington Iowa

CUVELER'S SERVICE

Washing ★ Greasing ★ Accessories

Tires ★ Batteries

Aplington Iowa

DE VRIES STORE

GROCERIES — MEATS — DRY GOODS

Aplington, Iowa Phone 27

RAYMOND UHLENHOPP

LIVE STOCK DEALER

Livestock Trucking a Specialty

Aplington, Iowa Phone 74 W or 74 J

IT'S

SCHUENEMAN'S CAFE

in

APLINGTON, IOWA

Phone 72

Since the fire there has been steady progress in town improvement. From some time before the fire the streets were lighted by kerosene lamps and a lamplighter hired to light these lamps every night. In 1913 the town council called for a vote on bonds for an electric light plant. This carried and the town plant furnished electricity evenings and on Monday and Tuesday forenoons. As people bought more electric appliances, the town plant was inadequate so in 1924 it was decided to buy the electric current out of town. In 1917 the town spent $18,000 for a water system. Some fire fighting equipment was bought in 1919. In 1929 bonds were voted on for a sewer system, thereby spoiling the fun of Halloween pranksters. The town has had numerous mayors and council members, but have had the services of the same clerk, Henry Busse, since 1910.

Aplington Implement Shop

Aplington has been known as a good business town. This is shown in several ways, the first being the length of time many businesses have been under the same management. H. H. Lindeman has been owner of the Lindeman Hardware Store since 1919. Harm Sherman has sold Skelly Oil since 1930. Another proof is the number of sons who followed in their father's footsteps. Will Dreyer started a furniture store here in 1911. It was taken over by his son, Lawrence in 1935 and is still the Dreyer Furniture Store. Charles Willeke built a plant in 1909 and started making drain tile in 1910. Before that he had made cement blocks in the basement of the bank. The

Aplington Meat Market around 1914

MEINT MEINDERS

Shoe Repair

BRIGGS & STRATTON ENGINES

& Repairs

Your Business Appreciated

Aplington **Iowa**

APLINGTON NEWS

Paul R. Voogd, Publisher

Congratulations on the Centennial Year

Aplington **Phone 68 W** **Iowa**

RAY HANSEN

Bulldozer —Trackson Loader, Dragline
Trenchoe, Trucks, Rock, Gravel
Sewer and Water Line Service
Farm Tiling by Contract or Hour

Aplington, Iowa Phone 162 W or 107

FISHER LIME CO.

AGRICULTURAL LIME
STRIPPING BLACK DIRT

Phone 172 **Aplington Iowa**

business is carried on today by his two sons and daughter, Leonard, Irvin and Mildred. Ontje Meyer was an early pioneer in the automobile business, starting about 1912. Today this is in the hands of his son Clarence. Dr. John Rolfs came to Aplington in 1905. When he retired in 1933 his practice was taken over by his son, Fred who still cures the sick and delivers the babies. One of the oldest businesses in the town is the Dreyer Drug Company which was started by Arend Dreyer in 1910 and is now run by his son Kenneth. Ervin Diekman succeeded his father in the grocery, meat, and locker business. Donald Lindeman followed his father in selling monuments. Ray Uhlenhopp carried on the stock business begun by his father Sander Uhlenhopp. Herbert Harken is following his father in the oil and auto repair business.

The Voogd's have had the Aplington News since 1887 when Dick Voogd got possession on a foreclosure. His brother, O. A. Voogd became the editor and continued in that capacity until his son Paul took over. Other businesses along Parriott or Main Street are: Folkert Devries, general merchandise; Jim Scourick, barber; Lynn Elliott's Lunch Box; Van DeMeer's Grocery; Kune Meinders Grocery; Meint Meinders Shoe Store; Allen and Gautney, radio and television shop; John Fecht, automobile selling and repair; Geerdes and Rewerts, John Deere Implement Shop; Al Christensen's Cafe; and Schoeneman's Cafe.

Businesses in addition to those named, located in further outlying blocks are: Cuvelier's Skelly Service Station, Harken Lumber Co., Riekus Brower Plumbing & Heating, Bud & Min's Drive-in, State Savings Bank, Aplington Hardware, Butler Co. Farm Service, Wayne and Jake Muller — Tank Wagon Service; U. S. Postoffice, Harm Oldenburger and Lowell Eltjes — Standard Tank Wagon Service; Moeller's Tavern, Fisher Lime Quarry, Aplington Sales Barn, Aplington Produce, Ray Hansen Construction, Bergman Implements, Aplington Grain & Milling Co., Aplington Hatchery, R. F. Schoeneman Attorney at Law, Bill's Feed and Produce, H. G. Kramer Auto Service, A. H. Green's Produce, Harry's Hill Top Ranch, Ann's Beauty Shop, Aplington Beauty Shop, Hill Top Beauty Lounge, Meyer & Muller Drag Line Service, W. H. Zeck Contractor, Vanderwerf & Van Dyke Contractors, Meyer Insurance Agency, Abe Voogd Insurance, John DeBuhr Electrician, Ed Dekker, Butler Co. Mutual Insurance, Mrs. Harold Reinecke Avon Representative, E. Finger General Trucking, Fred Bakker General Trucking, Ben Luppen Contract Trucker, Martin Uhlenhopp Contract Trucker.

When the school district was consolidated in 1917 and the older part of our brick building was erected, it took in 27 sections of land. Since the reorganization in 1955, the district has been enlarged to 78 sections and is known as Aplington Community School. It now employs 24 teachers, ten bus drivers, two custodians, a nurse, a mechanic, a secretary to the superintendent, and three people in the hot lunch program. There are about 400 lunches served each noon. The total enrollment for the 1955-56 year is 540.

Religion has always played a big part in Aplington.

UHLENHOPP SALES

Sales Every Thursday

Western Cattle for Sale at All Times

★ Heated Pavilion

★ A Friendly Auction

Lunch Room in Connection

Phone 9 Aplington, Iowa

H. H. LINDEMAN

Skelgas — Hardware — Frigidaire

Paints — Oils — Electric Supplies

Maytag Washers

Phone 58 Aplington, Iowa

LEROY FAINT

BERKSHIRE HOGS

Aplington, Iowa Phone 1426

The Presbyterian Church built in 1889 has this year been moved away and a new brick church erected in its place. A new manse was built in 1954. The present minister is Rev. John Smirich, and the membership numbers about 150 with an average of 120 in Sunday School. The first Baptist Church burned in 1912 and the one erected at that time burned in 1934. The Baptists rebuilt at a site two blocks east and later built a parsonage on the old church site. They have called a new minister, Rev. Donald Patet who takes over in June. Their church membership is about 250 with a large Sunday School attendance. The Reformed Church soon outgrew the old Methodist Church which had been purchased for $850 and a new church was built in 1923. Meanwhile a new manse had been erected across the street from the church. The present minister is Rev. A. J. Koopman. The church has 288 communicant members and 138 non-communicants, with a Sunday School attendance of 170.

Three miles north of Aplington is the Bethel Reformed Church which was organized in 1885. At first, meetings were held in a country school house one-half mile east of the present church site. During the year 1887, a church was built. In 1934, and again in 1949, the church was enlarged and improvements made. The old steeple which, in a sense, is a land mark was kept. The present membership is 182 with an average attendance at the morning services about 250. Rev. Peter Koenen has served the church since 1941.

Aplington Women's Club is a very active civic organization of over 70 members. It meets the second Tuesday night in each month from September to May in the Legion Hall. Its programs are varied and interesting. Several worthwhile projects have been carried out such as sponsoring a town library and improving the town park.

The Commercial Club is made up of about 40 business men who meet once a month. They have accomplished many improvements in the town. The Club sponsors the town band which gives concerts on Saturday nights during the summer months. They have been responsible for the town Christmas decorations and the Santa Claus party for children. They were largely responsible for obtaining signal lights at the railroad crossing in the north part of town. The widening of highway 20 through town which will begin soon is due to efforts of the Commercial Club.

In addition to these there are active Amvet and American Legion organizations with their Auxilaries.

An early account of Aplington speaks of the good farming land surrounding it. Farmers here have prospered. Many retire to live in Aplington and their farms are taken over by sons or daughters. The farms in this vicinity use up-to-date methods and many of the farm homes are as modern as those of town dwellers.

The Harm Dreyer home and family around 1900

AREDALE & BENNEZETTE TWPs.

The Indians in Bennezette

By Ray Tindall

Without going into detail of the various Indian treaties which took place in the early history of Iowa, it can be said that Bennezette belonged to no one tribe, though it was used as hunting grounds by several. Due to the nature of its terrain it was not suitable for permanent winter encampments, though the hunting expeditions of various tribes camped within its borders at other seasons of the year. One of these campsites was said to be on section 12, just below what is now known as Murphy's bridge, on Coldwater Creek. Numerous small circles of stones, which were used as fireplaces, were found there by old time residents, and it is quite conclusive evidence that the spot was frequently used as a campsite. At what time it would be difficult to determine, since the Indian inhabited the country from time immemorial.

The Sacs and Foxes, a large nation but mostly peaceful since the Blackhawk wars, ranged the country to the south and east. The Winnebagos, a small nation, ranged to the north and east; and the Sioux, who were the largest and most warlike nation west of the Mississippi, came down as far as Bennezette from the north and west.

Bennezette was largely the grounds of the Buffalo, and they were known to be in the township in fair numbers as late as the winter of 1856-57, after which they disappeared to be seen no more. A few Elk and Deer ranged the sparse timber along Coldwater and Hamblins Creeks, but the larger concentrations of these were in the more timbered sections of Pittsford and Coldwater townships. Large numbers of elk and deer were killed in the hard winter of 1856-57, and as a result the elk disappeared from the scene, though the deer lingered on for a few more years.

The Indian was of necessity dependent on the game for his subsistence, and with the disappearance of elk, deer, and buffalo, he too, made his exit from the scene, though small bands came begging through the country as late as the 1880s.

It might be well to mention here that much of the information on the early day Indians came from a man by the name of Hewitt, who established a trading post at Clear Lake, at an undetermined early date—probably some time in the 1840s.

Early Settlement

This township, lying in the northwest corner of the county, was probably the last to be fully settled and developed. The first settler, according to the available records, was William A. Keister, who settled on the northeast of the southeast quarter of section 1, in the year 1854. There is some evidence that there were others before him, but it cannot be substantiated when all those who could have done so are long departed. In one instance a family was purported to have settled on the northeast quarter of section 33 a year or two prior to Mr. Keister's coming, but the name has been lost and no records are available to give credence to the story. The ruins of a small log cabin and barn, in the timber along Coldwater Creek on section 12, were known to have been found by the earliest settlers. These obviously were built some years before, but very probably were inhabited by some trapper, as these nomads were known to have wandered up and down the streams long before the first settlers arrived.

The next two years saw only four settlers arrive; they were: John Chase (1855) on section 4, William Muffley (1855) on section 1, William Kingery (1856) on section 1, and Sylvanus Hamblin (1856) on section 30, just west of the present town of Aredale.

A number of settlers arrived in 1857. Milton Wilson, Ira and Cyrus Chamberlain, George O'Brien, Oliver Evans, William Woodroth, Orris Smith, Samuel Overturf, and several others who did not remain long. It was Samuel Overturf who named the township after his home town in Pennsylvania, from which he came to Iowa.

It is interesting to note that of all the families mentioned above, only those of Wilson and Chamberlain are represented by descendents in the township today.

After the year 1857, migration into the township slowed to a trickle because of the threat of hostilities between north and south, but after the close of the war the township was soon filled by a steady stream of immigrants. All the land was taken up by about the year 1875.

Early Occurrences

The hardships and privations suffered by the early settlers are beyond the comprehension of present day residents; and everyday happenings in their lives would be near tragedy, if perchance they were bestowed upon us today. A case in point being that of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Wilson, who, with their three children, came to Bennezette from New York state. They took passage on a boat from Buffalo to Milwaukee, and from there overland to Bennezette locating their claim on section 15. Mr. Wilson was forced to set off the covered wagon box and what few household goods they possessed, and return to Dubuque for a load of lumber and a stove. Mrs. Wilson lived in the wagon box and did her cooking over an open fire until his return. The family lived in a small shanty until a more comfortable cabin of logs could be built.

Mr. Wilson sold his first wheat at Cedar Rapids 120 miles distant for 60c per bushel; and, as there was no market for livestock on the hoof, he had to dress his hogs and transport them to Cedar Falls. The nearest practicing physician was at Waverly.

Section 5 was the scene of an Indian battle in or around the year 1853. The Winnebagos, who were pursued and outnumbered by the Sioux, found themselves driven down into Bennezette from the north and forced to take up defenses along Coldwater Creek. They fortified themselves as best they could but the Sioux discovered them and rushed down upon the little band. A frightful conflict ensued, in which the Winnebagos were all but annihilated. The writer's mother, who used to reside near the scene, has told of picking up arrowheads and other implements as late as the 1880s.

Farmers Co-Op. Society

Dealers in

GRAIN
COAL
TILE
WIRE
POSTS
SALT
FEED
LUMBER
CEMENT
GRINDING

Aredale — Telephone No. 16 — Iowa

1878-79 saw tragedy descend on the township in the form of diphtheria. The dread disease was in a very virulent form and many deaths resulted. In one family alone—that of Mr. and Mrs. William Crouse, living on section 13—six of their eight children died. The disease seemed to be centered in Coldwater township, but there were many cases in Bennezette. A quarantine was finally put on public gatherings, and the last case was in March 1879. It was estimated that there were about 250 cases in all throughout the county, with at least half of them being fatalities. Antitoxin was unknown in those days, so it is small wonder that the disease raged so rampant.

One of the worst storms ever to hit this section of Iowa came on the fourth of June 1878. It also caused one of the worst tragedies in the township. The BUTLER COUNTY PRESS speaks of it: "During the afternoon a heavy black cloud lay in the northwest, and at about 7 o'clock in the evening it came sweeping down on the country, bringing terrific wind and a deluge of rain, the wind continuing for over an hour, and the rain in torrents until late in the night. . . . West of the village (Greene) the storm seems to have been still more severe. In Bennezette township, the house of Levi Sheets was unroofed and his goods scattered over the prairie." (The writer has heard his grandmother tell of this incident, and how Mr. Sheets made his way through the storm to their house after his own had been demolished.) There were many other instances mentioned by the PRESS, but, lacking space, we must pass them over.

The greatest catastrophe caused by the storm was the drowning of Mr. and Mrs. Elias German. THE PRESS also speaks of this: "Their house stood in the Coldwater bottoms in Walnut grove. The creek rose suddenly and in a very short time was as high as the top of the stove, when an attempt was made to leave the house in a wagon by Mr. German, his wife, two sons and Andrew Anderson, son of Nelson Anderson of this vicinity. In doing so the wagon was upset when the road was missed. The two boys swam ashore and caught hold of trees. Anderson clung to the wagon box while it floated downstream some two or three miles, where it finally lodged and he was rescued the next morning. . . . Mr. German and his wife were drowned and no one can tell of their efforts to escape . . . the team was also drowned by becoming entangled in their harness."

Mrs. Robert Crabtree of Bennezette suffered a terrifying experience in this storm, her husband being away from home at the time. When the storm hit and the house began to sway on its foundation, she crawled to the stable where a baby daughter was born amidst the roaring of the storm.

First Things

The first known birth in the township was that of Louisa Keister, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Keister. The date was December 29, 1855.

The first deaths were those of Allen and Sarah Kingery, infant son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Kingery, in 1857.

The first marriage was that of John Bartlett to Adelia Muffley, in 1859, which took place at the home of the bride's parents, with Elder Moss of Coldwater township officiating.

The first school was built in 1861, and school was held the following winter with Miss Mary Briggs as the teacher. Her salary was $14 per month, and there were ten scholars.

The first religious services were held at the home of William Kingery in 1858 by Elder Moss.

The first church on the township was that of the Wesleyan Methodist, which was organized May 8, 1885. Meetings were first held at the school house in district No. 5 with the Rev. Thomas Hartley as the pastor. In 1893 a church was built on the northeast of section 34.

JOHNSON'S CITIES SERVICE
Your Business Appreciated
Aredale Iowa

AREDALE CAFE
HOME COOKED FOODS
Beer, Cigarettes, Pop, Ice Cream, Candy
Aredale Iowa

BUTTJER HARDWARE
Bottle Gas—Stoves—Electric Appliances
Heavy & Shelf Hardware
Paint
Aredale Iowa

AREDALE STATE BANK
General Banking and Insurance
Your Business Appreciated
Member of
F. D. I. C.
Aredale Iowa

The ground was donated by Ira Chamberlain. The first pastor here was Rev. J. Balch. This church has operated continuously through the years, and the present pastor is the Rev. Richard Stoneberg.

The first election was held at the home of Thomas Overturf, on the 5th of April, 1858. The following officers were elected: Clerk, William Woodworth; Trustees, Ira Chamberlain, Milton Wilson and Samuel Overturf; Constables, Thomas Overturf and Orrin Smith; Road Supervisor, Cyrus Chamberlain.

There was no postoffice in Bennezette proper until about 1875, the nearest postoffice being just over the line in Franklin County, and known as the Coldwater Postoffice. In 1875 or thereabouts, the first postoffice was established at the home of John Lockwood on section 6, with Mr. Lockwood as postmaster. There was another postoffice established in 1878, with Milton Wilson the postmaster and the office in his home. This office was discontinued in 1880. Mail to these postoffices came from Marble Rock, Sheffield and Greene.

Farming in the Early Days

Agriculture is almost the sole industry in Bennezette, and it is favored by having some very rich agricultural land. In the early days, drainage was the biggest problem, and to a large extent, it still is today. The land is flat and lacks drainage way in the form of creeks and manmade waterways.

There are only three creeks of any size in the township. Coldwater Creek is the largest of these, and it flows through the northern part of the township, from west to east. Hamblin's Creek, as it was known in the early days, touches only the southwestern corner of the township, and flows in a southeasterly direction. It is spring fed and flows even in dry seasons. Crane Creek flows through the central part from north to south, but drains only the southern half of it. There are two lesser runs, known as Ebling's and Needham's, and they both flow from the eastern border westward into Crane Creek.

When those of us who are only of middle age look back on the years, we find that the progress of agriculture has been astounding, both in method and practice. When our grandfathers first broke the tough prairie sod, which was liberally sprinkled with the small red willow, they had only made a beginning in the back-breaking process of raising a crop. The only means of working the sod after it had been turned over, was with a heavy wooden spoke-toothed harrow about four feet in width, which had to be used a number of times before the seed could be planted. Wheat was about the only crop grown by the earliest settlers, and it was sown by hand from a large tub, or a half-barrel, which was set in the back end of a wagon.

Most of the grain had to be cut with a cradle in the early days, but there were a few machines known as the self rake in use. In either case it had to be bound by hand. The earliest settlers had to flail their grain to thresh it, and then winnow it to clean it; as it was not until after the Civil War that the first horse power threshers made their appearance.

Corn could not be grown successfully as a crop in the early days, due to a lack of nitrogen in the virgin sod; and it was not planted at all until several crops had been taken off previously. Corn was not shucked in the field in the early days. The method used was to cut and shock in the field, this operation being done by hand; then shucking out the corn as needed, after the fodder had been hauled in. Corn was not harvested in the field, even by hand, until long after the Civil War. This last mentioned operation is still a little too fresh in the memories of most of us. The first horse-drawn mechanical corn pickers made their appearance as early as 1907, but as they were far from being perfected mechanically, they did not come into practical use until the early thirties.

Perhaps the hardest and most time consuming labor that the early settlers had to perform, was the cutting of firewood. As the only grove of native timber in Bennezette was on section 12 in the northeastern corner, firewood for the most part had to be hauled from the West Fork bottoms in Franklin county, and from Pittsford township on the south. As their only tool was most often just an axe, it is not hard to visualize the amount of labor that must have been involved. Coal was not available in the township until the first railroads were built. The nearest sawmill was at Butler Center and it was not in operation until 1856.

Livestock raising was limited. Enough cows were kept to furnish the family with milk, butter, and cheese, and as many hogs as were required to supply it with meat. Wild game, contrary to general opinion, and with exception of the prairie chicken, migratory waterfowl in spring and fall; was scarce and hard to obtain on the prairie.

Grazing was the least of all their problems. With limitless prairies to use for this purpose, a common practice was to turn all the cattle into a general herd, and hire a herder for the season. Some of these men made herding a seasonal occupation, and pretended to do little else. Each family would take their stock to the herd in the morning, and return for them in the evening at milking time.

The making of wild hay was another labor provoking operation. It was done in the fall, and the only implements were the scythe and the fork. After the hay was cut and cured on the ground it was hauled in and stacked outside. These wild hay stacks were impervious to the weather, and would, as the saying was, "shed water like a duck's back."

Social Life and Recreation in Early Days

To present day residents, the social "whirl" of the 1850s and 60s would seem slow, but to those of that period, any social or recreational event was always enjoyed to the fullest, no matter how simple they might seem to us today. As the horse was the only means of transportation, distance was always a strict limitation to any event they contemplated attending, especially after nightfall. For all that it was surprising how far some journeyed to attend a special gathering.

Probably the most popular events of the early days were the Fourth of July celebrations. These were quite gaudy events, with the usual speech-making, fire-jump, lemonade stand, etc. Given fair weather, they were assured of a large crowd, each one displaying the national emblem in some manner or other. Everyone was intensely patriotic in those days, and the trouble between the North and South was discussed on every hand.

Neighborhood parties were always an enjoyable event, with their round of games; and, though all religious people frowned upon it, square dancing was pursued with gusto by some, when a native musician could be found to supply a little "fiddlin'."

Camp meetings, which came in a slightly later period, were an event that could only be described by those who attended them.

No list of early day events would be complete without mention of the old-time medicine show, with its plays, which always displayed a villian, and an ambitious faker who sold his own brand of patent medicine. These cure-alls consisted of "electric" belts filled with red pepper, which were supposed to cure rheumatism, and a line of harmless compounds that would cure nothing at all.

After the war between the states, lyceum courses became quite popular; and, if in the hands of a capable instructor, were usually quite constructive. How many of us remember these? Their popularity was spread over a period of years.

Shooting matches always furnished some lively competition, as the early settler was most often an excellent marksman with his long-barrelled squirrel rifle. Prizes for these matches were turkeys, ducks and geese.

Aredale in 1905

Aredale

Prior to the year 1900 the town of Aredale was located 1 mile south of its present site. The town now known as "old" Aredale, so far as it can now be ascertained, consisted of a creamery, and a store and postoffice combined. There was also a church of Presbyterian denomination located across Hamblin's Creek, about one-fourth mile to the east. Its beginning can be traced to about the year 1889.

There is now a great deal of conflicting opinion as to "who ran what," so the writer will not make it an objective to deal with these facts. It is, however, fairly well established that Col. McCullough was the postmaster.

The present town of Aredale is located on sections 29, 30, and 32; and it was laid out and platted in the year 1900 by the Iowa & Minnesota Town Site Co., the platt being recorded June 28, 1900. The town sites were located along the right of way of the C & NW Railroad which was also built in the year 1900.

F. T. Ilgenfritz, a Clarksville man, built and operated the first store in 1901. The Aredale Savings Bank was also organized and built the same year, as was the Evangelical Church. The Farmers Elevator was built at about this time, as was the Nye Schneider Grain Co. George Ilgenfritz, a brother of F. T. Ilgenfritz, built and operated a lumber and implement business. He died in August, 1955.

Other business men soon followed, and the town was not long in acquiring a full complement of business establishments.

For a good many years June 28 was observed as "Field Day" in Aredale, and was celebrated each year. These celebrations were lively affairs, well remembered by most of us, and as Aredale possesed some great baseball teams during the period of 1910-17, the crowd always overflowed the small town.

Remains of livery barn after fire 1914, Aredale, Iowa.

Fire has taken its toll in Aredale. In 1914 the livery stable was burned and several head of horses lost. It was never rebuilt. Both the Presbyterian Church, which was moved from old Aredale, and the Methodist Church, which was moved from north of town, were consumed by flames. The Methodist Church was rebuilt in 1923, but the Presbyterian, which had not been active in the last few years, was not.

Train wreck in Aredale, 1916

Aredale has been the scene of two costly train wrecks; the first in 1916, and the last in 1953. Both of these wrecks were collisions, directly in front of the depot. A man lost his life in 1916, and the last demolished the depot.

Bennezette in the War Between the States

Memories of the things connected with this bitter conflict are fast fading away, and we believe it is just as well, for none of us like to be reminded of this most gruesome chapter in our history. On the chance that it might be of some interest to the veterans of later wars, we are giving what scant information we could glean from the records.

There were 504 enlistments and reenlistments in Butler County during the period 1860-65, and no accurate record of the few draftees. It must also be taken into consideration that some of the enlistments were made at points outside the county, in which case no records would be forthcoming. The population of the county in 1860 was 3,724; and it is safe to say that one-sixth of them answered the call to the colors.

At least two-thirds of the population at that time was centered in the eastern half of the county, and Bennezette was the most thinly populated of all, with less than a total of seventy-five persons. So far as can be ascertained there were only four men from Bennezette who served their country during the war. Their names and respective military units are as follows:

William Keister, 33rd Iowa Infantry; Orrin Smith, Co. A 14th Iowa Infantry; William Muffley, Co. G 8th Iowa Infantry; John Kelly, 3rd Iowa Battery.

All these men returned safely and Bennezette is the only township not listing any war dead. The known war casualties from Butler County is 82—about that of the last two World Wars combined. This, no doubt, is mildly astonishing to some.

In closing this historical account, we would like to say that we hope it has been of some interest, both to native residents, and those who have come from elsewhere. Most of it has been about the early days, for we thought this would be the most interesting to both young and old.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP & AUSTINVILLE

By Nettie Van Loh
Washington Township

R. C. Bode Home and Grocery Store in background Austinville, 1907.

Austinville School, one half mile south of town

Washington township lying contiguous to Madison township on the north, Monroe on the east, Grundy county on the south and Franklin county on the west. The area contains about 23,040 acres.

The surface is a rolling prairie, and the soil a rich dark loam with a sandy mixture, broken in the southern part by the valley of Beaver creek. The northern branch of Beaver creek flows through the central portion of the township. There is a grove in the eastern part of the township, which contains about 800 acres and consists mostly of oak. There is another grove on section 32, called Island Grove.

Through the township there are a number of springs which bubble up clear, sparkling water. The largest one is in section 33, and is known as "Big Spring." In early days emigrants on their way west would invariably inquire for the "Big Spring" as it was a favorite camping ground.

The settlement of the township was very slow as the greater part of the land fell into the hands of speculators, and settlers who came in as late as 1870 found a good share of it a wild unbroken prairie. The first settlement in this locality appears to have been made in the spring of 1853 by two brothers, Elery and Rueben Purcell, who made a business of going just ahead of the line of settlement and selecting the best claims, then when a good opportunity offered the claims would be sold at a good price and the adventurers would move on toward the setting sun. Rueben claimed the southwest quarter of section 24 about two miles west of Aplington along highway 20 on the south side of the road and Elery took the west half of the northeast quarter of section 25. Elery put up a small log cabin and broke up about eight acres on which he raised a fair crop of corn. This was the first breaking of soil in the township.

In the early spring of 1854 Elery sold his claim to Roby R. Parriott and again moved on westward. Mr. Parriott was a native of Virginia and came here from Stephenson Co., Illinois. He returned in June, 1854, to Illinois, and on the 4th of July he started back for his new home, accompanied by his family, coming overland with seven yoke of oxen, three horses, three wagons and a top carriage, and were one month on the way. Upon his arrival he found the little log cabin was too small for his family, which numbered thirteen, and therefore erected another log house, 16x24, with a lean-to, 12x24 feet. This was the first house in the township to be used as a hotel, and in 1855 it was made a stage station. He lodged the passengers on the stage that made the first trip west of Waterloo. He was the first postmaster in this part of the country. He was the owner of the present site of Ackley and conveyed to the Dubuque and Sioux City Railroad Co. one-half of the town site or every alternate lot. The company conveyed their interests to William J. Ackley, of Waterloo, hence the town derived its name. He was at one time the owner of more than 2,500 acres of land in this part of the country. He gave the Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad the right of way through his entire tract of land, and worked earnestly for the establishment of the road.

A man named "Doc" Craw came in the spring of 1854 and made a claim on sections 24 and 25. In 1855 in the spring he sold the improvements to Robert Howard, a native of Ohio who came from Henderson Co., Illinois in company with J. M. Caldwell who settled in Monroe township. Mr. Howard improved the land on section 24 until 1863 when he sold out and moved on to Nebraska.

Early in 1855, William, the eldest son of Charles Stockdale, a native of Scotland, made his appearance, and planted his stakes on the southeast quarter of Section 23, located 2½ miles west on Highway 20 of Aplington, where he built a log house, and improved the land. In 1862 he enlisted in the 31st Iowa Regiment, and died while in the service at Mound City, Illinois, at the age of 39 years. His remains were interred in the Aplington cemetery.

Charles Stockdale, Sr., one of the early settlers of Washington township, was born in Scotland, in 1802. When but two years of age his parents moved to the northern part of Ireland. He married there, in 1822, to Miss Margaret Sharpe. They had eight children. In 1854 he emigrated to America and settled in Onondago Co., New York, where he lived until 1856 when he came to Iowa and settled in Washington township. He made his home with his son William, until the time of his death which occurred in 1859, he was 57 years of age.

The youngest son Charles J. was born in 1846 and lived on the home place. Charles received his education in the district schools. He attended the first school taught in Washington township.| In 1871 he married Miss Lydia Smith. They had six children, Mary, Charlotte, Charles, Archie, Grace and Guy who were twins. In 1860 he built a house on Section 26 which is 2½ miles west of Aplington on the north side of Highway 20. He was an extensive dealer in livestock. He took quite an interest in township affairs. His wife Lydia died and he remarried to Miss Louise Keller of Ackley. They had seven children, Ray, Neva, Robert, Hazel, William, Glen and Howard. Charles J. died July 1917, and his wife Louise died July, 1954.

Jonathan Gee, a native of Tennessee, also came in the spring of 1855 with a company from Henderson Co., Ill. Most of that group settled in Monroe township. Jonathan claimed a farm in section 23 and 24 and erected a log house besides making other improvements, but sold his claims the following spring without proving. He went to Biggsville, Ill. James Gray bought out Jonathan Gee. He soon sold that place and lived in various parts of the township and then removed to Missouri.

Alfred Munson, a southerner, came here in 1858 and boarded with Roby Parriott. He owned large tracts of land in western part of township and built a house on section 31. He went south when the war broke out and served in a rebel army and soon sold his land.

Elisha Tobery, a native of Bay Statesboro near New Bedford, Conn., was born in 1811. When eleven years of age he engaged to learn the painter's trade, serving for 4 years, when he started on a whaling voyage which took him around the world. In 1854 he returned to Mass. where he worked at his trade for a year and then went to New Bedford where he remained a year. And in 1857 he came back to Iowa and settled for four years near Monticello, trading his land for some in Alamakee County where he lived for two years, then went to Bowen's Prairie where he lived one year, and later bought a farm in Delaware County and lived there until 1871, when he came to Butler County and bought 320 acres of land on Section 11. He married Miss Jane F. Knight and they had two children. She died in 1852 and he remarried to Miss Love D. Butler, by whom he had eight children. She died in 1868. His third wife was Lydia S. Whitcomb, a native of New Hampshire.

Mrs. Rachel Quinn, an early settler of Washington township came from Warren County, Illinois in 1856. She was married, 1827, to John Quinn who was born in Virginia. They settled on a farm in Illinois until May 1850 when he started for California, overland. When near his destination he was stricken with cholera and died, he was buried on the plains. He left a wife and two children. In 1856 Mrs. Quinn took her family and started west to seek a home. She bought land in Washington township where she lived until 1858, when she came to Aplington, where she built the first hotel in the village. She kept the hotel until 1868, when she sold out, and went on to a farm, on section 23 where she lived with her sons, James and John, until her death in 1878.

Thomas Clark, born in Allegany Co., New York. In 1847 he moved to Wisconsin where he engaged in the carpenter's trade. In 1863 he took up the wagon-maker's trade. He sold there and bought land in section 12, located two miles west and two miles north of Aplington. In 1846 he married Miss Anna Neal. They had four children, Martha, Henry, John, and Mary. Some folks will remember John Clark his son as a painter who lived in Aplington for a good many years.

Patrick Kenefick came to Washington Township in 1868 from Wisconsin. When 8 years old he came to America with his parents, who settled in the Province of Quebec, Canada. In 1855 he bought 120 acres of improved land in Fon du Lac, Wis., where he lived until he moved to section 10 where he bought 320 acres two miles west of Austinville. He married Miss Sarah Coyle in 1879 and they had 13 children.

Daniel Beninga was born in Germany 1825. When 15 years old he was engaged in canal shipping. He joined the army in 1846 and served for quite a few months and then resumed his work on the canal. In 1857 he came to America and engaged on a farm near Freeport, Ill., and later went to Springfield, Ill. He married Etje Bagger and they had seven children. In 1869 he came to Washington township where he bought land from the Ohio Stock Breeding Association on Section 2.

Hugh G. Scallon was born in Quebec, Canada, in 1840. In 1855 he came to the United States with his parents, who settled in Waushara County, Wis. He made his home there until 1869 when he came to Washington township, and settled on section 20. He married in 1876 to Miss Elizabeth Kenefick. They had four children, Hubert, Mary M., Mary J., and John J.

Julius J. Burnham born in Vermont 1845. When

HARM S. De VRIES

DEALERS IN LIVESTOCK

General Trucking

Phones

6655 - Ackley 16F22 - Aplington

Austinville, Iowa

AUSTINVILLE PRODUCE CO.

Austinville, Iowa

Buyer of Eggs

Phones: Ackley 5015 — Aplington 16F2

PEOPLE'S STORE

GROCERIES AND HARDWARE

Phone Ackley 5013

Austinville Iowa

Austinville State Savings

BANK OFFICE

Austinville Iowa

young he attended the district school, and advanced his education at the academy of Mankton Ridge and one term at Barre Academy When seventeen years of age he commenced teaching. In 1870 he came to Iowa and settled in Aplington, and there bought an interest of his brother in a furniture and hardware store. They also ran a dairy, keeping from 40 to 50 cows, and started a cheese factory in Aplington. In 1871 he traded the cows for land on section 26, Washington township, and in the spring of that year moved there, and the first two winters taught school. He married Miss Mary Smith in 1872. They were blessed with two children—Freddie and Ena Mabel. Freddie died in 1878 at the age of two years. Mr. Burnham was town clerk six years and secretary of the school board for seven years. He also was a member of the board of supervisors in 1879.

Samuel Croot born in Devonshire, England in 1835. In 1857 he came to United States landing in New York where he engaged in farming for three years. He then went to New York City and engaged in a pickle factory seven years, when he returned to England. After a visit of eighteen months he returned to United States and settled in New Jersey where he engaged in farming until 1871, when he came to Iowa and bought land on Section 10, Washington Township. He improved the land and rebuilt the house. He married Sarah J. Fallen. They had one child Sarah. They adopted three children, Thomas, Charles and Christopher.

Harrison Combs a native of Pennsylvania, born 1827. He worked on farms during the summer season and lumbered in the winter. In 1856 he removed to Wisconsin and engaged in the lumber business. He rented a saw mill for a few years. He built a saw mill that was run by water power at a place now called Merrill, Wisconsin. In 1875 he bought a farm in Washington township on section 24 and erected a large brick house. He owned 600 acres of land. In 1882 he built a barn 36x92 with a stone basement on section 14, and also a frame house. He had 100 cows on the farm. He was married in 1851 to Miss Elvira Niles. They had three children, Helen, William and Albert. Mrs. Combs died in 1872. His second wife, Mrs. Stickler, a sister of his first wife died in 1877 and she had one son by her first husband by the name of William. She died and he remarried a third time to Miss Annie Showers and they had one child, Jerome.

Henry Austin a native of England, was born 1844. When two and a half years his parents emigrated to America and settled in Michigan, where they lived five years, then moved to Wisconsin. His younger days were spent in school and on the farm. In 1868 he came to Iowa, and bought wild land in Washington Township, section 21. He returned to Wisconsin, and in the spring of 1869 he came back with a team and broke ninety acres of land. In 1870 he settled on the farm and in 1872 built a frame house. In 1882 he built a barn 40x88 feet with a stone basement. He was married to Sarah M. Smith. They had three children, Walter G., Alice (Mrs. Sam Patterson), and Clarence W. He dealt largely in cattle and hogs It required the help of three hired men and his sons to manage the farm work. Mr. Austin was a grain and stock buyer and also had the lumber and coal business in Austinville. He died in 1912.

His brother, William Austin was born in 1847. He bought wild land in section 21 and 22 in 1873. In 1876 he built the house on section 22 and 1876 married to Charlotte Smith. He owned about 320 acres.

The first religious services in the township were held at the house or hotel of Roby Parriott, during the winter of 1854-55 with Elder Cripple, of Hardin County as preacher.

The Methodist Episcopal Society was organized in 1855 by Elder Steward, of Hazel Green, Hardin County. Robert Howas was class leader. They afterward held meetings in Anthony Howard's log stable. Later this organization was moved to Aplington.

The German Reformed Church of Washington was erected in 1881, and was dedicated on 25th of November, 1881 by Rev. Mr. Decker. This church burned down several years ago and new church has been built on the present site about 1951.

Probably the first birth in Washington Township was that of Geneva, a daughter of Anthony and Melinda Parriott, May 19, 1857.

The first marriage in the township was Anthony J. Parriott and Melinda Spangler, August 7, 1856.

The first school in the township was taught by Mrs. Chichester at Morris Whitney's house in Section 24, in the summer of 1857, and was a select school. The next school was kept in Anthony Howard's log stable, and S. B. Decker was the teacher.

The first school house was built in 1863, in the northwestern corner of Section 23, two miles west of Aplington on the south side of the road. David Washburne was the first teacher and this was known as District 1.

The first blacksmith shop was started in 1857. The proprietor was Shaw, from Waterloo, R. B. Parriott furnished him with logs to build his shop and it was placed in the northwestern quarter of section 25. Mr. Shaw didn't stay long. This shop was afterwards used for

AUSTINVILLE GARAGE
General Repairing
★ Batteries ★ Oils ★ Grease ★ Gas
Austinville, Iowa

AUSTINVILLE
ELEVATOR & LUMBER COMPANY
GRAIN — COAL — MILL FEEDS
Building Materials
Austinville Iowa

school purposes.

The first death in the township occurred in the fall of 1853, and was an infant daughter of Elery Purcell. It was buried on his farm. This also was among the first deaths of the county.

The second death was that of Sarah Ann Howard, a daughter of Robert Howard in 1857 on July 3. The remains were interred in Aplington Cemetery, it being the first burial there.

Austinville

The town of Austinville was named for these two brothers, Henry and William Austin, both big landowners. Austinville was called Evergreen until it was discovered that another town in Iowa had the same name and then it was changed to Austinville around 1892.

The first Mercantile store in the town was built by Richard C. Bode and George Peters. At the end of one year Mr. Bode purchased Mr. Peter's interest and admitted his brother John into the partnership. They conducted the enterprise under the name of Bode brothers until 1905, when Richard bought out his brother's interest.

The next general store, hardware and machinery was built by A. E. Austin.

The first Blacksmith was managed by Tonjes Heeran who's son George still lives in Dumont. The next Blacksmith shop was run by Dave Bisbee and a helper Lowe Babcox.

Mr. Frank Orr was the main carpenter and also sold lumber. His stationery carried the caption "Boys can pick potato bugs but can't sell lumber."

The Harness & Shoe Repair shop was run by Emery Buss.

The Elevator, Lumber and Stock Yards were owned by Henry H. Austin. It was said that Austinville did more carload shipping of stock than any other town between Waterloo and Ft. Dodge. There were big feeders like Henry H. Austin, Charles J. Stockdale, James Croot, August Voy, Hugh Scallon and John Schlamp who shipped stock out of Austinville.

The Creamery was run by the Dadswells from Aplington until Sam and Hugh Patterson took it over under the name of Patterson & Bode Creamery. This creamery was located about a half mile north of Austinville.

At one time it was thought that Austinville would be the largest city in this territory and that the surrounding towns would just be small suburbs. Many large houses were built in the village.

Austinville can also boast of sports such as playing tricks on folks. One of their best pastimes was to remove burs off the buggy wheels and change the wheels so that they would ride lopsided. Another trick was to tie the tugs on the milk wagons with a string so it would break and leave the driver stranded on his high seat. Duck hunting in the spring north of town furnished many hours of pleasure along Beaver Creek. Prairie chickens and rabbits were by the thousands in the early days for winter hunting.

The first school house in Austinville was erected in 1876, located about a half mile south. This was known as District No. 8. Later a new two-story brick building was built in the northern part of town.

The first mail route was started in 1902 by Pete Limburg. The first parcel post was sent by John Limburg to Mrs. Emma Duelder of St. James, Minn., and was also the first package to be received by that postoffice.

Austinville had a very good band under the leadership of Clate Chennette during the 20's. Concerts were played on Main Street during the summer months to attract customers for the stores.

Austinville suffered two disastrous fires, the first was the General Store on the north side of Main Street which occurred in October, 1932. It was operated by James Voss and Ralph Seltz. Previous to this it was known as Harken & Harken General Store operated by Reemt Harken and his cousin John Harken. This building was never rebuilt.

Then in the fall of 1955 the Voss, Bode, Limburg Implement Shop and the "People's Store" operated by Jack Limburg was destroyed by fire. Jack Limburg operated a grocery and Postoffice in the living room of his home until a new cement block building could be erected. The Implement Shop was built on a new site north of Main Street about a half block.

Leonard Stockdale has a garage and Frank Timmer operates the Austinville Produce.

The Elevator and Lumber yard is under the management of Klaus Abkes. He bought the firm from Ole Janssen a short time ago.

Mrs. John Harken has a hatchery which has been in operation for a long time.

H. S. De Vries buys livestock.

VILMAR AND ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN WEST POINT TOWNSHIP

By Mrs. C. H. Riggert

Vilmar

Around 1901 a man from Waterloo, William Stolte, decided to build a general store with living quarters attached at Vilmar. He moved there with his family and for a number of years conducted a flourishing store. The place was named "Vilmar" by the Reverend Conrad Weltner of St. John's Lutheran Church after his beloved Professor Vilmar in Germany. Some years later, Stolte sold out to Buttke & Frey, who soon after sold it to C. D. Cochran of Iowa City. Mr. Cochran sold out to Henry Voigts, Sr., in 1906, and on October 1st of that year, the Voigts' family moved into the store's living quarters and operated it, together with the farm across the road. Mr. Voigt's health failed and after four years he sold the store to William Meyer of Cameron, Idaho. Mr. Voigts moved across the road to his farm and died the following year. Mr. Meyer lived at the store until his death in 1948.

The old Vilmar Store, 1913

But the store had been discontinued for some years, for in the meantime, Highway No. 14 had been established passing one mile east of Vilmar and there Kurt and Glen Kramer started a filling station on the northeast corner of Section 1. After a few years they sold out to Alvin Constien, who only operated it a very short while and then sold out to Kenneth Voigts. In July, 1940, Mr. Voigts sold out to his brother-in-law, Ricklef Menken.

Mr. Menken sold the buildings, retaining the gasoline pumps, to Mr. Buroker in Allison and erected in its place a dwelling and modern general store. Later this was remodeled and enlarged and is now a large general store operated by him and his family and is generally known as "The Vilmar Store."

Around 1880 the cottage of Christian Hahne, his wife and daughter Wilhelmine stood just east of the old Stolte store on the land owned by the Wiegmans. In 1883 Wilhelmine married Conrad Wiegman and in 1889, Mrs. Hahne died and Mr. Hahne went to live with his daughter. The house was moved away, but around the turn of the century, a creamery was built there and a home for the buttermaker built on the spot of the Hahne cottage.

The creamery flourished, milk and later cream from the surrounding area was brought there and premium class butter was made and sent to Eastern markets. The first buttermaker was Fred Fisher. A highlight at the creamery was ice packing time in winter. There was no electric refrigeration and when the weather became really cold, ice was cut on the Shell Rock river at Greene and hauled to the ice house at the creamery where it was packed in sawdust. This packing was done by certain men who understood the proper method for best keeping of ice. Long lines of wagons or sleds, depending on the snowfall could be seen near the creamery waiting to unload their large slabs of ice.

About the time World War I broke out cream stations where cream was bought and shipped to large creameries were opened in all surrounding towns. Some farmers liked the idea of immediate payment for each can of cream brought in. The creamery issued a check every two weeks only. This cut into the creamery business and finally it was forced to close. The building and equipment was sold. The building was bought by Dick Voigts and moved across the road onto the farm he operated where it still stands.

Lutheran Church, 1912 — Vilmar, Iowa

St. John's Lutheran Church at Vilmar

As early as 1876 Pastors Gerlach of Waverly and Fink from the Stock Farm near Allison preached the Word of God to settlers in the vicinity of Vilmar. One of these homes in which services were held was the William Kammeyer home one mile south of the present church. The writer's grandmother often spoke of this, and how after the service kind generous Mrs. Kammeyer served coffee and coffee cake to the worshippers before they left for home. Most of them had walked several miles to the service. (Horses which had to work long hours in the field during the week were allowed to rest up on Sunday—and so the people walked.)

November 29, 1879, marks the date of the founding of the church by Pastor Henry Schlutz, then pastor at Pleasant Valley. He, assisted by his vicar Bernard Marr, conducted services at various schoolhouses but the so-called Prange school house became the place of organization. The minutes of 1879 and 1880 record the following names as founders:

William Kollman, William Martzahn, Henry Maass, H. Vohlsing, Henry Voigts, Fr. Busch, Gerd, Harms, Otto Bockman, John Schroeder, Ludwig Twachtmann, M. Paplow, Fr. Kramer, Henry Busse, William Heuer, William Kammeyer, Fred Kroemer, H. Reinking, C. Wiegman, Fred Niehaus, Adolf Winters, J. Buchheister, Fred Debner, H. Schroeder, J. Buerkle.

Others mentioned as ardent supporters are David Kramer, Wm. Folkers, Harry DeBuhr, Jacob Poppinga, J. Braun, Fr. Weiland and others.

The school houses were crowded in those days. On January 3, 1880, the young congregation moved to organize a Sunday School and have reading services on those Sundays when the Pastor could not be with them. Henry Maass and John Heuer supervised these reading services. The first child to be baptized according to the record was August Kammeyer on July 7, 1878. The first marriage recorded was Otto Bochman and Mina Hillman on February 28, 1878. The first death was Christian Busch on April 6, 1876.

At a July 1880 meeting, a resolution was passed to request the pastor to conduct Christian Day School two days, and if possible, three days per week. This Christian Day School is still conducted for Lutheran Religious instruction.

In 1883 the congregation started to build a church on the present location. A five acre tract was purchased from Conrad Wiegman for the sum of $90.00. It was 30x48x16 in size and a parsonage 16x24x14. A school house, an addition of 16x20x10, was also built.

The same year Pastor Conrad Weltner was called and he remained until 1928, when he retired after 45 years of service. Then Pastor H. A. Diers was called. He was installed on June 10, 1928. He resigned in 1937 to accept another call. Pastor J. Willms was then called and is the pastor still today

Many improvements have been made through building and remodeling, including a new, large, modern parsonage in the fall of 1938. The congregation today has 456 members, a large Sunday School with an efficient staff of teachers, a Luther (young peoples) League, Ladies Aid and a Lutheran Brotherhood.

The departed of St. John's Church are buried on three cemeteries. Originally a cemetery was laid out on the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 2, known as the Kammeyer farm. A number of graves were there but no drainage system had been perfected and sometimes coffins had to be lowered into standing water. So it was decided to put the cemetery elsewhere.

In 1881 a spot on the Fred Steere farm, 1½ miles

Bristow Mercantile Co.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Phone 65

Boven—Dirks—Frerichs, Props.

Bristow Iowa

Vinson Limestone Co.

Agricultural Limestone & Crushed Rock

Lloyd Vinson, Prop.

Bristow Iowa

Bristow Elevator Company

Grain, Livestock, Feeds and Fertilizer

Grinding and Mixing

Phone 1302 Carnes Jensen, Manager

MERFELD GARAGE & SERVICE STATION

STANDARD SERVICE

Bristow, Iowa Phone 3802

northwest of the church was chosen. It was called "Steere's Hill." Now it is generally known as the North Vilmar Cemetery. It was laid out in lots 10x18 ft. in 1882 by Henry Maass, Wm. Martzhan, and Henry Vahlsing. The graves on Section 2 were removed and taken to other cemeteries.

A cemetery for the church members living nearer Allison was laid out on the Folkers farm two miles south and one-half mile east of the church in the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 14. Many of the pioneers are buried here and it still functions as a private cemetery.

In 1900 it was decided to follow the old European custom of having a burial ground beside the church. Thus a cemetery was laid out joining the church property on the south. The ground was purchased from the owners, the Henry Finke family. The first burial here was a 7-month-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Tamm in May 1901. This and the North Vilmar Cemetery are now incorporated within the church group. Trustees and caretaker are appointed and a system of perpetual care of the graves had been inaugurated. The fund for this is court supervised. Ornamental fencing has been put up and landscapping done.

Bristow and West Point Township

By Chas. Yost

West Point Twp. was originally a part of Ripley Twp. which at the time of its formation included the greater part of the western half of the county.

In 1856 West Point Twp. was organized and included what is now Pittsford Twp. and not until 1858 was Pittsford Twp. given separate organization and West Point Twp. assumed its present boundaries.

The first entry of land in the Twp. was made by H. P. Early on May 2, 1854. Philip Miller and George Lash were the earliest settlers of the Twp., coming in the fall of 1854. Mr. Miller preempted eighty acres of land on section 20. This is part of the land now owned by Lester and Gertie Eberline. It is interesting to note here that Mr. Miller hauled the lumber and material for the present house on this farm overland by wagon from Dubuque. This house today is in perfect condition and speaks well for the materials and builders of that early day.

George Lash, Samuel Moots, John Lash, William and Adam Sarber were among the settlers in the Twp. in 1854. In 1855 Lewis Kilson and John Hewitt located here also.

In 1856 Charles V. Surfus came to West Point Twp. from Indiana. A grandson, Lyle Surfus, lives within a mile of the old Surfus home southeast of Bristow.

Other early settlers following 1856 were Robert Smith, William Gough, George Trindle, Hiram Bell and Joseph Neal.

William Gough came to America from Gloucester, England in 1849. Having been trained for the ministry in his native land, upon his arrival in New York he identi-

JOHNSON HARDWARE

Plumbing — Heating — RCA-T.V.

Bristow, Iowa **Phone 5903**

West Point Lockers

Allison - Bristow

Your Business Appreciated

DUFFIELD & DUNNING

Magneto Generator Starter Depot
J. I. Case Machinery
Sales & Service

All New 400 - 300 Tractors

Bristow, Iowa Phone 7002

WUBBENA PRODUCE

★ **Poultry** ★ **Eggs** ★ **Feeds**

Free Pickup and Delivery Service

Phone 5102 **Bristow, Iowa**

fied himself with the Methodist Church and was assigned as a circuit rider. His circuit was one hundred miles in length and took in the territory from what is now Waterloo to Mason City.

He rode this circuit seven days a week preaching out under the sky or in cabins and ministering to the spiritual needs of the pioneers. Sons, grandsons and now great-grandsons have followed him into the ministry.

One of Bristow's beloved and capable people, who passed away just two years ago, was his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Corey.

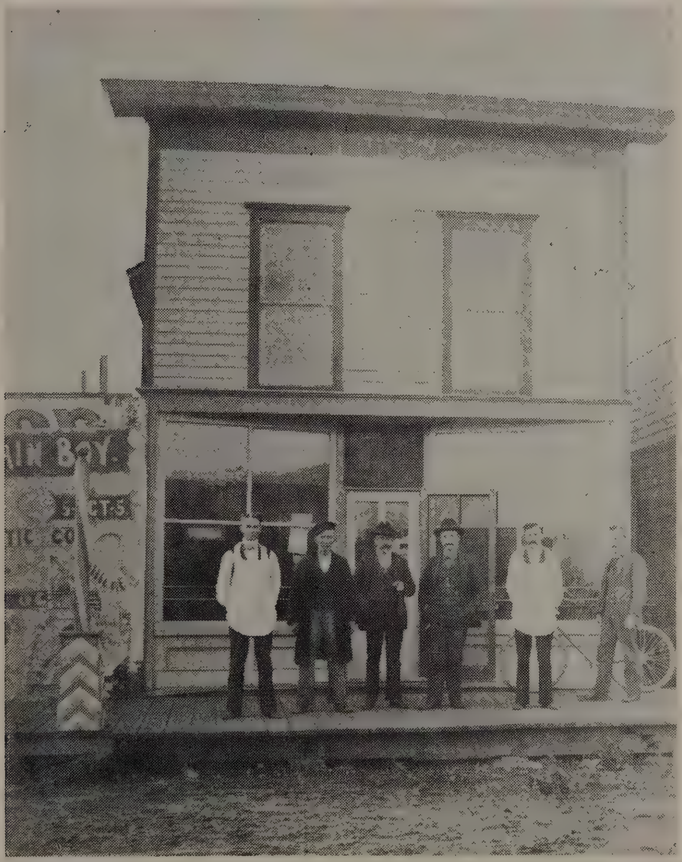
The first birth recorded in the Twp. was that of Orrin Lash, son of George and Mary Lash, born in November, 1855.

The first marriage occurred in Jan., 1856 when Seth Strong and Mary Cannon were married by Justice of the Peace Jamison.

The death of Mrs. Strong was the first recorded in the Township.

The first hotel was kept by John Lash in a log house built by him in 1854 near the present site of Bristow.

The first school in the Twp. was taught during the winter of 1859-60 at the home of Thomas Hewitt by Miss Mary Rich with an attendance of fifteen scholars. The school house at that time stood about a mile east of what is now Bristow.



Floyd Newbury's Barber Shop in Bristow around 1890
Left to right: George Day, Nick Hughes, Cal. Morford, Floyd Newbury, Joe Seeley

Iowa Central Stock Farm

This stock farm, which at one time comprised more than two thousand acres of land and was one of the best

HANSEN'S SUNDRIES & CAFE
Your Business Appreciated
Phone 60 **Bristow, Iowa**

Conger Tire and Battery Service

Tires — Batteries — Accessories

Vulcanizing

Bristow, Iowa Phone 5002

RICK MENKEN

As A Rule We Have It

CONGRATULATIONS

Vilmar Cor. **Bristow Phone 3602**

GALE WIEBKE

General Auctioneer
Phone 5611 **Bristow, Iowa**
Lifetime Experience With
LIVESTOCK
Also Sell and Solicit Sales of
Farm Land, Town Property
and Merchandise
I SELL ANYTHING
UNDER THE SUN.
Terms Reasonable and Alike To All.

known farms in the state, was originally owned by R. A. Babbage of Dubuque.

It was purchased by him as an investment and he sent Charles Thompson out here to open it up and put the land on the market, but later decided to make a stock farm of it.

Later Mr. Babbage failed in business and the business fell into the hands of H. L. Stout, a Dubuque capitalist and lumberman.

Mr. Stout secured I. M. Fisher as manager of the farm in 1875 and he remained as superintendent until the farm was sold in 1891 and Mr Fisher purchased the half section on which the buildings stood.

During the time the farm was owned by H. L. Stout and his son Frank D., the farm became famous as the home of some of the finest strains of livestock.

For some years the place was known as the "Lexington of the Northwest," for upon this farm were developed a number of famous trotting horses that were known throughout the country.

Among these were the famous "Echo" strain of horses.

For many years an interesting feature of this farm was the deer park, consisting of a number of acres of artificial woodland, in which a herd of wild deer were kept. This was a favorite sight-seeing spot and the mecca of parties and picnics.

The deer were sold after the disposal of the farm, to Austin Corbin a New York banker, and transported by him to his game preserve in the state of Vermont.

Town of Bristow

A tract of land was laid out and platted in 1855 containing ten acres, by Henry Early and George Lash. The name chosen for the village was West Point, later changed to Bristow.

Julius Huffman was the first to open a general store in the new town in 1860. James Butler and H. J. Playter followed Julius Huffman.

In 1872 the firm of Colvin and Arnold opened a general store.

This Mr. Arnold was the father of George Arnold, long an owner of a large general store in Allison and still a resident there.

Later another son, Will Arnold, operated the store in Bristow, and following his death, his son Clayton Arnold, now living in Minneapolis, operated the store for a time before disposing of it.

In the first settlement of the township many of the settlers received their mail from Cedar Falls, it being at that time the end of the closest railroad and the nearest grist-mill.

No doubt the settlers took turn about taking grain to the mill for grinding and bringing back the flour and also mail and news from the east.

In the latter part of 1855 or early 1856, Henry A. Early was appointed postmaster of Bristow, then called West Point.

Later it was found there was another town in the state called West Point, so at the suggestion of W. R. Jamison the name was changed to Boylan's Grove.

Mr. Early, who lived near Bristow, was postmaster for some time.

The name was changed to Bristow in 1876.

In 1878 and 1879 the railroad grade was completed and the tracks laid and on July 12, 1879 the first train ran through Bristow.

The railroad at that time was called the Dubuque & Dakota R. R., later changed to Chicago Great Western.

From that time the mails were brought to Bristow by rail until the Chicago Great Western Ry., discontinued passenger and mail service.

Since this time Bristow has been served by Star Mail Route from Parkersburg.

On October 15, 1902, Rural Free Mail Delivery was started from Bristow with two routes.

Hugh L. Mosher being appointed carrier on route one and Barney Shaw carrier on route two.

Mr. Mosher bought the first automobile owned in Bristow in 1906 which he used on his mail route.

It was a one cylinder, ten horsepower Cadillac with a top speed of around thirty miles per hour.

Bristow has but one mail route now and the present carrier is Everett B. Hewitt who succeeded his father, Monroe Hewitt, after returning from World War I.

Miss Laura Frisby is our present Postmistress.

Originally the western half of Westpoint Twp. was united with the eastern half of Pittsford Twp. in a single school district.

The school house was located in Boylan's Grove, a short distance west of the town of Bristow.

Later the whole township was given separate organization and constituted a school district. The first school in the township was taught during the winter of 1859-1860 at the home of Thomas Hewitt, by Miss Mary A. Rich, with about fifteen scholars. A school house was built about a mile east of what is now Bristow on land belonging to Frank Newberry. His grandson lives on the farm now, following the retirement of his father, Henry Newberry, to Bristow.

Henry Newberry was president of the Butler County Fair for twenty-two years.

In 1880 a two-story frame school house was erected in Bristow containing four rooms. For many years this school employed from four to five teachers. Becoming inadequate, the present building was built in 1914 by issuing bonds of fifteen thousand dollars for the purpose.

The Bristow community is served by three good churches, the Evangelical-United Brethren, the Reformed, and the Church of Christ.

At one time Bristow had six churches. The Methodist Church, organized in 1855; the Presbyterian, organized in 1857; and the Episcopal Church. Eventually these three disbanded and left the three mentioned above to serve the community.

Changes Since 1900 in Bristow

Until the mid twenties Bristow was an important point on the Chicago Great Western Railroad since it was the coaling and watering station for the steam locomotives between the division points of Oelwein and Clarion. Four crack passenger trains daily besides many freights passed through the town on the main line between Chicago and Omaha and all stopped at Bristow for coal and water. There is no doubt that the paving of highway 10 (now highway 3) across the county, and running parralel with the railroad, spelled doom for both passenger and freight service, and of course mail service, on the C.G.W. In a short time after the road was paved trucks were taking over much of the local tonnage into the town. The huge bread boxes which came on the morning passenger train from Waterloo and were usually seen in front of the stores each day were replaced by bread trucks backing up to the stores and unloading their wares. Eventually grocery trucks took that business away from the railroads as well as other trucks with other commodities until at the present time only car-loads of coal, lumber, feed, and machinery arrive in the village by rail.

Fires, for which no fire-fighting equipment was available, played a disastrous part in changing the town of Bristow. First the town Opera House burned in the early part of the 1900's. Later a hardware store and some adjoining buildings, and a large general store and other buildings burned. A few years ago Bristow Elevator burned and following that disaster the town and surrounding community purchased adequate fire fighting equipment which is manned by volunteer firemen.

About 1900 the old high wooden sidewalks were replaced with concrete walks. About 1915 electricity was brought into the town and in the 1920's a city water system installed. Just last year the highway leading into Bristow from highway No. 3, was surfaced as were the main streets.

And that brings Bristow up to the present time. A small but friendly town filled with nice people who enjoy their quiet existence.

Oldest Present Business Place in Bristow

In 1912, two farm boys, George and Clayton Conger, came to Bristow and built the Conger Garage. (That building is now occupied by Clayton Boylan and used as a machine shop.) When they opened for business they started selling Goodyear Tires and Paige and Saxon automobiles. In 1917 George Conger joined the armed forces and was overseas 13 months with the Army Band. In 1922 the Conger Brothers sold the garage building to Henry Folkert and moved to their present location. In 1922 George and Clayton dissolved partnership and George continued the business alone with the help of his wife Marie. As their sons returned from military service, Stanton from the Second World War and Jim from the Korean conflict, they took over the business due to their father's failing health. It is now known as the Conger Tire and Battery Service and they are still selling Goodyear tires after 44 years in business. It is interesting to note here that the Conger family served their country 100% in times of conflict. Marie Conger, mother of Stanton and Jim, was overseas during the first World War as an Army nurse.

Clarksville, Butler Township, Freemont Township and Antioch Church History Through the Years

By Helen Evans

Most early day histories recognize Joseph Hicks as the first permanent settler in what was later to be known as Butler County. Hicks, in December 1850, made his way up the Shell Rock River and located near the present site of Clarksville, erecting a log cabin about a mile west. Robert Crowell brought the Hicks family from Rock County, Wisconsin. He then went back to Wisconsin, but returned in 1852.

In the spring of 1851, Joseph's father, Henry Hicks, likewise came from Wisconsin and made his home near his son and erected the first blacksmith shop in the Shell Rock valley. The grove in which these families settled was then given the name of Coon's Grove.

The first piece of land for which a patent was received was that upon which John Heery of Milton, Wis., filed in 1850. This land lies in the bend of the Shell Rock river and is now included in Heery Woods State Park, south of Clarksville. Heery returned to Wisconsin the same season, making the trip both ways on foot. He returned to his claim in 1852.

In the spring of 1851, two Wamsley brothers, Mahlon B. and William S., came and took claims a short distance northwest of Clarksville, they were followed in the same year by Morrison A. Taylor, E. Ensley and Jeremiah Perrin. In 1852, Seth Hilton, Sr., brought his family from southern Illinois.

On July 5, 1852, George W. Poisal, his wife and four children; Thomas Clark and his family; Jeremiah Clark and family; Mrs. Cynthia Clark and family arrived in Butler township. They came from Indiana. George Poisal and Thomas Clark at once entered one-half of section 18, erected a cabin and commenced pioneer life.

The original town of Clarksville was surveyed during the month of August 1853. Because Thomas and Jeremiah Clark were among the owners of the land formerly platted, they were honored by the naming of the village after them. Soon afterward two additions were made, one on the east by Daniel Mather and one on the south by Seth Hilton. With these two additions, the town comprised seventeen blocks and was thus put on record.

During the next two years many settlers arrived to increase the population of the growing town. At present there are 1210 people living here.

The first steps toward providing a courthouse for Butler County are entered in the court records, dated June 4, 1855.

In 1874 the district court acted favorably upon a petition for incorporation of the village, and on the 21st day of September 1874, held the first municipal election which completed the organization of Clarksville, as an incorporated town.

In the early 1870's the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern R. R. had reached Clarksville, this was later sold to the Chicago Rock Island R. R. and at the present time serves Clarksville with passenger and freight service. By 1879, the Dubuque and Dakota, now the Chicago Great Western R. R., had been built from the east, this railroad still gives freight service to the town.

Clarksville Creamery — 1881 - 1906
Burned down.
Ed Wilcox and wife lived upstairs
Minor Wamsley, Jimmy Roberts, Phillip Loomer, Cyrus Doty, Ed Wilcox (Buttermaker), Orlando Spencer, W. H. Moore
Jake Hickle

Early Church Organizations

The Methodist denomination was organized in the home of Thomas Clark with Rev. Ingham giving the first sermon in 1853. As the membership grew a church was erected in 1864.

In 1854, the first services of the Presbyterian denomination were held at the home of David Blakely, the first pastor. The members, deciding they needed a place of worship, erected a building in 1867.

In the 1930's the Methodist and Presbyterian churches merged and at present are known as the Community Church.

The Christian Church was organized at Antioch, a farming community east of Clarksville, in the year 1857 on the 5th day of July. Meetings were held in the school house near the site of the building which was built

HUBERS

CLOTHIERS FOR BUTLER COUNTY

Since 1900

Clarksville Iowa

SINRAM'S TAVERN

Beer — Cigarettes

Shorty & Pete, Props.

Clarksville Iowa

HAMMEL & MARTIN

Furniture and Funeral Service

Clarksville Iowa

FARMERS PRODUCE — FEED CO.

Buyers of Poultry and Eggs

Clarksville Iowa

CLARKSVILLE LOCKER & GROCERY
Complete Locker
&
Home Freezer Service
Curing & Smoking
Phone 5352
Clarksville Iowa

H. J. Carter, Attorney

B. W. Barchent, D.D.S.

E. M. MARK, M.D.

Clarksville Iowa

and dedicated in the early 1870's The Antioch Sunday School was organized in 1866, the first superintendent being J. W. Moore.

In 1899 the congregation erected a new church building in the Town of Clarksville. The Antioch church building was purchased with contributions from individuals in the community and used as a community building and church until 1945 when it was destroyed in a wind storm. The Antioch Ladies Aid remains today and is still active, meeting in the homes of members.

Today Clarksville boasts five churches, St. John Lutheran, Immanuel Evangelical and Reformed, Church of Christ, Community Church and Wesleyan Methodist which dedicated a new church building, Sunday, April 8, 1956.

Education

The first school in this vicinity was taught in a log cabin by Miss Malinda Searles during the spring of 1855 Jane Clark was the next teacher.

Clarksville High School

When the Courthouse was moved from Clarksville to Butler Center, the original courthouse building was used as a school until 1903 when it was torn down to make room for the present building which houses the lower grades and high school.

In 1951 a new school building was erected on land purchased for that purpose including three class rooms, office and large gymnasium and auditorium, the Junior high school occupies this building.

SQUIER'S TAVERN
Mabel & Earl
BEER — CIGARETTES — CIGARS
Clarksville Iowa

WILKEN GROCERY
Staple & Fancy Groceries
CONGRATULATIONS
Clarksville Phone 2151 Iowa

BILL'S STANDARD SERVICE
Standard Oil Products
Bill Skinner, Prop.
Clarksville Iowa

NIEHAUS WELDING WORKS
Portable Welding & Wrecker Service
Plowshares Repaired
Clarksville, Iowa Lloyd Niehaus

The Butler Lodge, No. 94 AF & AM, was organized in Clarksville, June 3, 1857, and is still an active organization in Clarksville.

Clarksville Chapter 144 of the Order of the Eastern Star was formed and organized December 27, 1873. Mrs. Sue R. Caswell was Worthy Matron and John Palmer, Worthy Patron. The Chapter is still active.

Clarksville Lodge No. 351, I. O. O. F. was organized, August 4, 1876 and is still an active fraternal organization. There is also an active Rebekah Lodge in Clarksville.

Clarksville Lodge K. of H. No. 46 was organized Oct. 14, 1879 with J. O. Stewart, president and J. F. King, vice president. This has since ceased to exist in Clarksville.

At the present time there are several active service organizations in Clarksville, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Amvets and Amvet Auxiliary and W.R.C.

Chapter IT of the P.E.O. Sisterhood was organized in April 1942.

Consider The
Iowa State
In Clarksville
As Your Bank
Office at Kesley, Iowa
George W. Debuhr, Manager
Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

THE CLARKSVILLE STAR
CONGRATULATES
THE
BUTLER COUNTY FAIR
FOR
100 YEARS OF PROGRESS

Music

In the early days Clarksville residents were music lovers as they are today, the Clarksville Cornet Band was organized in the spring of 1874, with Ed. Drake, instructor. Under his efficient leadership rapid progress was made.

Today Clarksville has a municipal band which gives concerts during the summer months and the public school has a band which has won many honors with its very fine talent.

All of the churches have choirs and instrumental soloists.

Clarksville is proud of the number of musicians in the community.

Dramatics

On Saturday, Nov. 15, 1875, a Dramatic Society was organized in town with Van E. Butler president, and Miss Alice E. Ilgengritz, Sec'y-Treasurer.

For their debut they decided to give the drama, "Rough Diamond," this same play was given in 1953 when Clarksville observed its 100th birthday.

After a few years the organization became extinct, much to the regret of the pleasure loving public.

At the present time there is being stressed in our local school an interest in declamation, plays and the writing of plays.

Other Important Events

Fort Eads

During the Indian scare in North Central Iowa in 1854, Colonel Abner Eads, their Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state, happened to be in Cedar Falls. Having been an officer in the army during the Mexican War he was immediately elected to serve as commander-in-chief of all the forces about to engage in conflict.

Colonel Eads and his men reached Clarksville and stayed over night. A small detachment of "regulars" was left with the citizens with orders to erect a fort, which was two blocks west of the present Main Street in Clarksville. It was named Fort Eads in honor of the Colonel. There is a bronze marker at the place where the Fort once stood.

Many of Clarksville's young men have answered their Country's call during conflict and will continue to do so whenever needed.

Clarksville Begins to Grow

As soon as there were several families in the new settlement the needs of the new settlers became apparent, and then began the establishment of essential businesses.

As this was the day of horse drawn vehicles it was necesary to have a blacksmith shop, the first in Clarksville was opened by John Hardy in a log house which stood on the corner formerly occupied by the old Peet House, now the site of the Auditorium building.

In 1856 Henry Newman opened a general store and remained in business many years. In 1858 a Drug Store was opened by J. Gilbert in a one-story frame building.

F. H. Voss Milling Co.

Dealers in

Grain, Coal, Feed, Seed & Fertilizer

Congratulations

Dial 4161 Clarksville, Iowa

● STROM'S ●

WHOLESALE — RETAIL MEATS

Grocery and Lockers

Old Hickory Smoking Our Specialty

Phone 4311 Clarksville, Iowa

HARDY'S CAFE

Congratulations

Clarksville Iowa

HENRY B. BRUNS D-X

Congratulations

Clarksville Iowa

John Bartlett started the first lumber yard in Clarksville in 1870 and conducted the business for three years. Native lumber was sawed at the sawmills near Clarksville and retailed to local residents through the lumberyard.

The physical needs of the community were ministered to by the first physician, Jeremiah Clark in 1853, followed by Dr. James E. Walker in 1854, Clarksville has always had at least one Dr. and at most time through the years more than one.

The first lawyer in the county was M. M. Trumbull, who came to Clarksville in 1854.

A postoffice was established in 1853, with A. G. Clark as postmaster, who kept it in a log house just south of the public square. It was then on a mail route from Cedar Falls to Clear Lake and was carried by a man on horseback. At present the postoffice is located on Main Street in Clarksville and is a second class office. It is served by the Rock Island R. R. and Star Route.

One of the landmarks of Clarksville was destroyed by fire, Jan. 1956, in years gone by it was known as the Tremont House, this was one of the most popular hotels in the town.

With the Community being an agricultural one many families still are tilling the same soil which was purchased by their ancestors:

Herman S. Hunt and Frank A. Hunt have their homes

MARTIN'S SUNDRIES
Beryl and Mildred
We Serve to Serve Again
COSMETICS — HEALTH NEEDS
FOUNTAIN SERVICE
Dial 3861 Clarksville, Iowa

Poppe Grocery & Lunch
SERVERS OF FINE FOOD
Open Evenings and Sundays
Home Made Ice Cream
Clarksville Iowa

WEINBERG & FRUDDEN
★ LUMBER
★ BUILDING MATERIAL
★ COAL
Congratulations
Clarksville Iowa

MACY'S VARIETY
Macy Carlson
Congratulations to the Butler Co. Fair
Dial 3011 Clarksville, Iowa

and farm the same land which their father, H. D. Hunt settled in 1853.

Lew Williams still lives on the home place which has been owned by the Williams family since May, 1856.

Donald Davis, grandson of Cyrus Doty, is residing on the farm his grandfather purchased west of Clarksville in 1855.

James H. Hickle, great grandson of John Hickle, is farming the land his great grandfather purchased in 1856.

Clarksville has continued to keep step with the times and in 1935 the Main Street and two miles south were paved to connect the town with State Highway No. 10 which has since been changed to No. 3. In recent years state highway No. 188 runs through the town.

In 1935, the state purchased land from the Heery family, and a state park was established. This is known as Heery Woods State Park and is a very popular recreation spot for Iowa residents, it has a beautiful shelter house of natural stone on the south bank of the Shell Rock River, an open shelter house on the north side of the river and picnic areas scattered throughout the park. Excellent fishing provides a pleasant pastime for those interested in this sport.

At the present time summer employment is furnished local residents by the Clarksville Canning Co., and the town has a bank, physician, lawyer, postoffice, hardware stores, drug sundries store, lumber yard, variety store, furniture store, cafes, creamery, barber shops, machine shops, two locker plants, six grocery stores, jewelry store, wood-working shop, insurance offices, real estate businesses, radio and TV shop, ready-to-wear store, funeral home, light company, oil company, 5 filling stations, 2 veterinarians, dentist, newspaper (the first in Butler county) 2 mills, garages, an efficient water works, welding shop, beauty shops, 2 taverns and state liquor store.

Clarksville will continue to grow and meet its needs by providing a better place to live.

Lowtown

Southeast of Clarksville in Butler Township is a cemetery which dates back to 1852, known as Lowtown.

When John Hickle purchased land from H. D. Hunt in 1855, Mr. Hunt explained that there were two small graves on a plot of ground and requested that they were not to be disturbed. Mr. Hickle agreed to this and stated that the new settlers would need a cemetery. Through the years families of the early settlers have taken care of this beautiful cemetery and at the present time it has the following officers: Herman S. Hunt, president; Miss Alma Hickle, Secretary-Treasurer and Edwin Wilkinson, Paul Harris and James Hickle, Trustees.

It is interesting to know that no price has ever been asked for a burial lot, new land has been purchased for the cemetery, if a family wished to they may contribute to a memorial fund.

It is believed that the early settlers in this part of the

Schmadeke Feed Mill

Grain Seeds Twine
Fertilizer Paints Fencing
Feeders Oils
Farmers Hardware
Livestock Remedies
Jamesway Equipment
Mfg'r Blue Ribbon Brand Feeds
and Poultry Mashes
Full Line Mill Feeds and Concentrates
Grinding, Hulling and Mixing
Phone 2382 Clarksville, Iowa

WILLIAMS OIL CO.

Distributors of

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Congratulations

Clarksville Iowa

MARTIN & SON

Staple and Fancy Groceries

Cash Buyers of

POULTRY — EGGS — WOOL

Clarksville Iowa

Clarksville Hardware Co.

E. N. Roberts, Proprietor

PLUMBING, HARDWARE, HEATING

Congratulations

Clarksville Iowa

township had hoped to build a small town, there were two mills, a flour mill and a sawmill, a blacksmith shop and a school house in the community at one time, in the early 1860's.

In recent years unmarked graves have been marked and records brought up to date, this has taken a lot of research and the officers are to be commended in their efforts to record the happenings of the early day settlers in Butler Township.

Helen Evans

Antioch Church

Antioch Church in Butler Township

By Mrs. W. C. Shepard

The Antioch Church, east of Clarksville, which was demolished by the windstorm Saturday late afternoon, March 24, 1945, was erected by the Disciples of Christ, over eighty-three years ago. Their church records states: "Pursuant to previous appointment, the Disciples at Antioch, Butler Co. Iowa, met upon the 5th day of July A.D. 1857, and organized themselves into a congregation by giving themselves to God, and to one another in Fellowship, being built upon the foundation, of the Apostles

GEORGE'S TELEVISION

AND RADIO

SALES & SERVICE

Phone 4601 Clarksville, Iowa

Hurd's Insurance Agency

Insurance, Real Estate and Tax Service

Ronald Milius, Insurance

Glenn Hurd, Real Estate

Office Phone 3421 Residence 3692

Clarksville Iowa

RAY'S MARKET

QUALITY FOOD FOR LESS

Clarksville Iowa

MILLER'S D-X STATION

Harvey A Miller

Congratulations

Clarksville Iowa

and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."

According to the record there were eleven members at the meeting—Wm. McBarnard, Patse McBarnard, James Hodgson, Elizabeth Hodgson, John T. Davis, Hannah P. Davis, Clement N. Burton, Thaney A. Taylor, Sarah Farlow, Mary Kinsley, and Mary P. Burton. In the following September John Kimmons and Cynthia Kimmons became members, and in October Frances Probasco, Malinda Hodgson, Christopher Billhimer, Barbary Billhimer, Mary P. Barnard, Lydia E. Barnard and Alexander March.

Rev. T. R. Hansberry was the pastor who assisted in the organization of the church. The records to Sept. 5, 1858, are in the same handwriting. They are not signed, but may be his. There is no record of the selection of officers until Nov. 6, 1858, A.D. when it is stated, "The members of the Antioch congregation met for the purpose of setting apart their respective officers." And proceeded to elect to the Eldership—Wm. McBarnard and Charles S. Martin; to the Deaconship—James Hodgson and James R. Taylor; to the Clerkship—John T. Davis.

At its organization the church had no building in which to hold its services and met in the old school house known as No. 5 about 40 rods south of the Antioch cemetery.

On June 29, 1872, John Saddler and his wife Elizabeth, conveyed to the trustees of the Christian Church, one-half acre of ground, about 30 rods east of the cemetery, and upon that land the church was erected, the building in which it held its services until the year 1891. The building was dedicated in Feb. 1873, and cost $1200. Some of its timbers were hewn from native timber.

The church was the first organization of the Disciples of Christ in this county. Its membership was not confined to the community in which organized, but was scattered over the northern part of the county. At one time it was one of the strongest church organizations in the county, having five hundred members. As time passed the older members died, and many removed to other places, and many became members of churches nearer the places of their abode.

On April 18, 1891, the trustees of the church sold it to the Antioch Union Church Association for $250.00. This was probably the first union church association in the county. The charter members of the association were: W. H. Moore, A. D. Shepard, and Philip Loomer all farmers of the Antioch community. Mr. Moore was then a member of the Christian Church, Mr. Shepard, of the Baptist Church and Mr. Loomer of the United Brethren Church.

The Antioch Union Church Association held meetings in the building for many years, but with the advent of the automobile and removal of most of the original families of the community, church services were discontinued but some Christmas programs were held in the building and Memorial Day services were held there, these served as old settlers reunions, and were well attended. The edifice and its meetings are missed by them.

Fremont Township

The township bearing this name is in the northeastern corner, its east line joining Bremer County and its north, Floyd County with Butler township on the south and Dayton on the west.

The soil is rather a sandy loam and in about one-half of the township is underlaid with a strata of limestone. Those who are familiar with this kind of land know its worth for cereal products. There is some timber in the township but a large amount of it was planted by enterprising farmers.

The land is rather rolling, but there is a valley extending from northeast to southeast which is appropriately known as Pleasant Valley. No more beautiful and productive land can be found in the state of Iowa.

There is no railroad within its borders but the facilities for market are excellent. The town of Clarksville provides a market point three miles away and the Illinois Central R. R. runs close to its line on the east with a station at Plainfield. There is no town or village within its borders.

The first steps toward settlement in Fremont were made in 1855, but it was not until after the close of the Civil War that this township took rapid strides to advance. In 1867 its fertile prairies began to attract those looking for a permanent home. From that time to the present its increase and development have been rapid. Almost all the land is now in the possession of residents, who have placed it under cultivation. Every foot of the land is tillable.

There are several different theories as to how and by whom the township was named. An article in the Clarksville Star in 1875 reads: "Fremont, free speech and free press, was what one would hear in the days of 1856, when Horace Greeley, Charles Summer and others were rolling the great stone that was to eventually crush out slavery in the American States. So it was given to this territory of thirty-six square miles." The name was suggested by William R. Phillips in honor of General J. C. Fremont who was at that time a candidate for the presidency. The name was at once approved by S. Bonwell and the other inhabitants.

Samuel Lenhart came to Butler County in June 1855 and settled in Fremont Township on the south half of Section 19, and there still stands in 1956 the well preserved residence, a two-story frame house with two verandas across the front, one each extending out for the first and second stories. The Lenhart family remained there until 1880 when he bought 125 acres adjoining Clarksville.

Pleasant Valley Church, Fremont twp.

First Evangelical and Reformed Church of Pleasant Valley

The white church in this community provides for spiritual and social life for the residents of Pleasant Valley. On a Saturday evening, you can hear the church bell toll on the hour of six telling all those within hearing distance that it is time to lay aside their toll and prepare for the Sabbath.

About the year 1870, a group of German settlers gathered to organize and locate a place of worship. The first services were held in the clubhouse.

Later, as the community grew larger, a Church was erected at Pleasant Valley. At that time all services were in the German language. Dedication services were held in the year 1889.

The Church is all that is left of the village of Pleasant Valley, the Post office, General Store and Creamery burned in the early nineties. This community has always used the name of Pleasant Valley.

The parsonage for the church was erected in year 1924.

The church has four active organization which meet once every month, they are the Youth Fellowship which has twenty-three members of whom are great grandchildren of the founders of the church. The Women's Guild which includes all the women of the church. Each year in the month of June, they sponsor their annual ice cream social sometimes referred to as the Pleasant Valley reunion. The Men's Christian Brotherhood has twenty-five active members. The Young Adult Group has ten couples as active members.

At the present time the First Evangelical and Reformed Church has 162 members with 81 enrolled in the Church School.

Many rural churches have vanished while others are standing idle in many stages of decay but the Church at Pleasant Valley has weathered many storms, hardships and depressions.

The congregation of the church issues the following invitation to you, Mr. and Mrs. Motorist, when driving on Sunday morning between Clarksville and Plainfield on route 188, watch for the sign of FIRST EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH OF PLEASANT VALLEY, then stop and worship with us.

Helen Evans and Mrs. Ben Buchholz

Dumont and Pittsford Township

By Mrs. Edwin Pfaltzgraff

The thick waving grasses of the open rolling prairie land were broken only by three streams of water running through Pittsford Township: Boylan's Creek on the east and northeast; the west fork of the Cedar River running from the northwest to the southeast; and Thorp's or Dutchman's creek (now known as the South Fork) running from west to east in the south part of the township. Along the banks of these streams stood a luxuriant growth of timber—mostly oak interspersed with basswood, water elm, soft maple, honey locust and cottonwood; and in its depths could be found thickets of wild plums, entwining grape vines, choke cherry trees, hickory nut, walnut and butternut trees, hazel nut brush and wild currants and gooseberry bushes. In season the wild prairie flowers dotted the scene with bright and beautiful color. Wild roses grew in great profusion. Wild animals lived here in great abundance—buffalo, deer, elk, bear, lynx, gray foxes, wild cats, timber squirrels, pocket gophers, stripped gophers, ground hogs, chipmunks, rabbits, weasels, raccoon, otter, beaver, muskrats, mink, prairie chickens, pheasants, partridges, wild turkeys, geese and ducks.

This wild, natural setting was only disturbed when some adventurous white man passed along its almost hidden trails, or an Indian tribe used this route in their travels. The Indians never made a permanent settlement in Pittsford Township, but the Sioux, the Sacs and Foxes, the Mesquakie tribe from Tama and the Winnebagoes came into this section to hunt the game that lived here in such abundance. In the course of their rovings, many Indians stopped on a hill located in section 19, which gives an unrestricted view of the surrounding country for many miles to the east, south and west. Beside being a fine place for a temporary camp because of its position, it was also a desirable place to send up smoke signals which conveyed messages to others. The writer of this account lived on this farm in 1916, and stood many times on this spot known as Indian Hill, overlooking the country side and noted the complete absence of vegetation on the hill top. When curiosity led to the seeking of the reason for this, the oldsters of this era said that the many fires by the Indians left this barren condition. In checking this matter with the present occupant of the farm, we find that the hill is still an unproductive area. Thus the habits of a hundred years ago influence us today in 1956.

Into this area of rich land, abundant vegetation and animal life, John Boylan and James Matterson Park brought their families from Bureau County Illinois and settled on portions of sections 13 and 24 in the fall of 1852. These men, who were brothers-in-law, of industrious habits and good citizens, became the first settlers of Pittsford Township in the extreme eastern part.

Settlers usually made their claims by laying four logs as the foundation of a house, and cutting the claimant's name on a tree. Most of the settlements were made in timber land along a stream. This provided a water supply, shelter and material for warmth and building. Walnut, hickory and oak trees were converted into cabins, barns and fences. This land had to be cleared of stumps before cultivation. The open prairie would have provided an easier farming area with far greater fertility than the lighter sandy soil of the river valleys with their tendency to overflow, but it was considered good judgment in this era to choose the timber land.

Early in July 1853, Mr. W. R. Jamison came to Boylan's grove with intent to settle. There had been no entries of land claims made in Pittsford, but claims had been staked out in the name of friends and relatives. So in order to locate here, Jamison was asked to buy these claims. However, he learned from Mr. Boylan that there was a good grove nearby where there were no claims or homesteads and so he decided to go there. Boylan went with him and he located in parts of sections 19 and 20 on the extreme western edge of Pittsford Township. This decision proved to be a wise one as the timber on the claim proved to be very valuable. On Aug. 11, Mr. Jamison made entry on his half section of land at the Des Moines land office, which was the first original entry of land in Pittsford Township. He brought his family from Buchanan County Iowa and built a log cabin on section 19 which he afterward sold to John Harlan, Sr. in 1855.

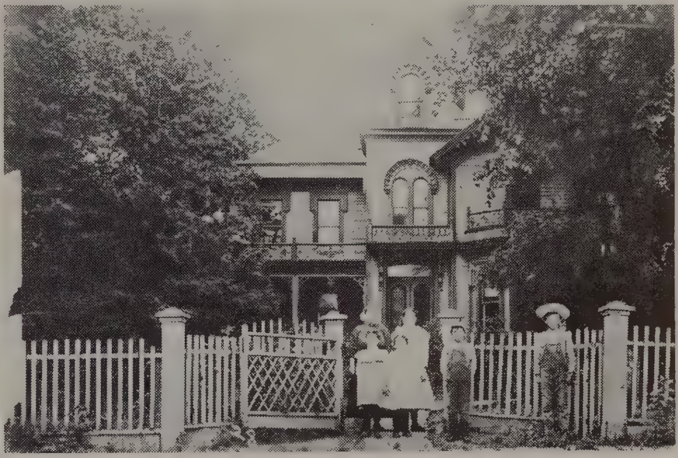
This trail between Boylan's Grove and Jamison's Grove became the route of the Sioux, the Winnebago, and the Mesquaka tribes of Indians on their hunting and fishing journeys from the Cedar River as they traveled northwest to Clear Lake.

Despite blizzards, prairie fires, dangers and privations, other families came to settle during 1854 and 1855. In the next three years many other settlers came to the township. By 1860, the population of the township was 246, by 1910 it was 1286 and it now is recorded as 1304.

Town of Dumont

Sometime during 1856, a man named Young had entered a claim to section 28 in Pittsford, Township. He made no effort to improve his land, and in 1864 Mr. S. B. Dumont purchased this property and a considerable amount of adjoining land. Mr. Dumont, of French descent was born Sept. 14, 1823, in Somerset County, New Jersey. He was married to Miss Caroline Townsend of Salem, New Jersey in 1847. They had two children, a daughter Matilda and a son Thaddeus. They moved west and settled in Dubuque in April 1856. He was engaged in the mercantile business there until 1864, when it became necessary for reasons of health to live an outdoor life and so moved to Pittsford Township with his family. He erected a house at once upon his property and began to get the land ready for cultivation. He continued extensive farming operations until 1879.

Shortly after S. B. Dumont's arrival, he built a new home and as he was possessed of considerable means the house was a most pretentious one for those pioneer days. The largest structure was built at the north end of Main Street on a little hill with a background of trees—truly an imposing sight looking from the south end of Main Street. The beams under the house were of heavy natural timbers set on a limerock foundation. All walls in the house were double. The house was built along decorative lines with a turret and its tiny balcony on the south side which made a third story. The entrance into the house from the south led into a beautiful hallway, the floor of which was marbleized in maple and cherry woods in an intricate design. A large winding stairway of cherry and maple curved along the east wall and led to the large hall above. The first floor had two large living rooms, dining room and kitchen and three other rooms on the east side. The house had a full basement under it. Another stairway led from the kitchen to the upper hall which gave entrance to eight large bedrooms. Also, a tiny stairway led to the turret on the third floor in which were two more bedrooms. As one stepped out on the little balcony, a wonderful view could be had of the surrounding country. The old house was an imposing and beautiful landmark until fire took its toll on April 5, 1943, burning it completely. Thus, Dumont lost an important association with pioneer history.



The beautiful S. B. Dumont home at Dumont
Year 1911
Children of the man that managed Dr. T. A. Dumonts farm.
Edna, Mildred, Marguerite, Fern, Glen and Milton Stafford

In 1879, the Dubuque and Dakota Railroad, now the Chicago Great Western, was built across the southern part of section 28, and Mr. Dumont conceived the idea of planning a townsite. He chose 80 acres of land lying on a knoll between the West Fork of the Cedar River and a tributary, the South Fork. It was an ideal location because of soil of high fertility, railroad facilities and natural scenic beauty. The town was platted, recorded and named Dumont in honor of its founder. It was laid out with wide streets and alleys—and so platted that the beautiful Dumont home, built on a small hill, stood at the north end of Main street overlooking the entire townsite.

Samuel Dumont was determined that his infant town should thrive and so he began buying and storing grain; he started a lumber yard and sold one hundred carloads of lumber that fall. At the close of a year after the village of Dumont began, there were thirteen buildings, with its founder furnishing the major portion of money and materials for their construction. His son, now Dr. T. A. Dumont installed a stock of drugs and became practicing physician. Among the establishments that opened up this year were the Smith Brothers with their general merchandise store; hardware business by S. B. Dumont; O. A. Chambers began the first grocery store; Nicholas Huss put up a building used as a saloon; and A. L. Bickford, son-in-law of S. B. Dumont, erected a store building. William Schulenburg, a carpenter, was active in the building project and at least four residences were built in the fall of 1879. The town continued to grow rapidly and by 1882, in addition to the other business places mentioned, there was a furniture store, meat market, live stock buying agency, farm implement store, shoe store, blacksmith shop, livery stable, collection agency, hotel and another saloon. By the year 1900, the town boasted a population of 433 people, 550 in 1910 and the 1950 census record is 718.

Agriculture

The western bound pioneers came to Pittsford Township with barely enough to begin work but their physical fitness, industrious habits and determination for success proved to be enough to start them on the way to financial independence. They must of necessity be equipped with all those qualities, as their very life depended on them wringing their living from the soil.

In the reminiscences of a pioneer woman of this time, she relates that she was seventeen years old when she married and had earned a little money teaching school at one dollar and a half per week. Her husband had some money so that together they possessed twenty dollars. They began housekeeping using only thirteen of those dollars to buy furniture, cook stove, dishes and groceries. The stove cost one dollar and a half and three chairs were bought for fifty cents apiece. The husband made the beds and table. She had saved feathers and so her bedding was ready. The house was made of logs and measured 14 ft. by 16 ft. She put a curtain around the meal barrel (they had no flour) and over it placed a board on which was laid the family bible and hymn book, her prized possessions. This was their center table. They had two beds in this room, as every settler in those days

R. H. VOGEL FURNITURE
Phone 71 J Dumont, Iowa
CONGRATULATIONS

HEMMEN MOBIL STATION
★ **Mobil Gas** ★ **Mobil Oil**
on Hiway 3
Dumont **Phone 30 C** Iowa

CARL BOECKEMEIER
CHEVROLET SALES & SERVICE
McCormick Deering Machines & Repairs
Phone 25 C
Dumont **Iowa**

For Prompt and Dependable Service
Carry Your Account at
STATE BANK OF DUMONT
1895 — 1956
Dumont, Iowa
We Solicit Your Banking Business
If You Bank With Us
You Can Depend On Us
F. D. I. C.

believed in being ready for guests. She considered this a very cozy room. Her father gave her a cow and in the next months she sold butter, the price being 3c per lb. In their third year of marriage the cow died, and was a very great loss to them. Their provisions at this time were purchased at Cedar Falls and butter and eggs were carried there and traded for supplies. They also had a pig which they butchered. She sold all the lard, which was enough to buy seven yards of calico for a dress. The dress was short because of lack of material and when one of the neighbors said, "Your dress is too short," the young woman replied, "It will be long enough before I get another." The winter of 1856-57 was very cold, so they went to live with a brother-in-law who had a log house 18 ft. by 20 ft. There were eleven people living there when the young couple arrived with their baby. The baby was kept in a basket hung over a joist and as the family passed they jogged the basket to keep him quiet. People did not think of being crowded in those days. This was a true picture of pioneer life and many settlers did not have as much as this young couple.

The cabins were made of logs and the cracks filled with mud and clay. Most of them had dirt floors. One of these log cabins on Section 20 still remained and was used as living quarters until 1941. It had been plastered and had wooden floors, but remained otherwise in its original form.

The women of the household lighted the homes with candles made from beef tallow. Much of the food came from the land—meat, fruit and honey for sweetness. All clothing was made by womenfolk, some of it of wool which had to be carded, spun into thread and woven into cloth by them.

Pittsford township was a part of a great area that was originally purchased from the Sioux, the Sac and the Fox Indians, and the records show that this land was brought for a little more than two cents per acre. The early settlers cleared the land of timber and planted wheat, corn and vegetables—potatoes and watermelons yielding an extra fine crop. Teams of oxen were used, especially to break the tough prairie sod, but horses also figured in this pioneer farming. Crude implements were used for farming, made mostly of wood. Branches of trees were dragged over the ground to level it. Grain was sowed by hand, carried by the farmer in a sack. In the same manner corn was planted by hand in the furrows made by the breaking plows. The grain was cut by hand at ripening time using a cradle. Threshing was done with a flail or by driving oxen or horses over a mound of grain. This wheat and corn was ground into flour and meal. Later oats, barley, flax and rye were raised and hay in abundance could always be obtained by cutting the prairie grasses. The land was very productive and records list the selling price at $100 for an 80 acre farm.

Mr. W. R. Jamison who settled in 1853, brought

L. W. Ellis Lumber Co.

EVERY THING TO BUILD ANYTHING

Phone 34 Dumont, Iowa

CONGRATULATIONS

DR. M. D. ENNA

Phone 40 J Dumont, Iowa

CONGRATULATIONS

HEINIE UHLENKOPP

Live Stock Dealer & Auctioneer

DUMONT — IOWA

Phone 18 C

CONGRATULATIONS

Pfaltzgraff Hardware

★ Maytag Washing Machines
★ Plumbing & Heating
★ Hardware
★ Paints
★ Radios

Dumont Iowa

the first hogs to the township — —some fine Berkshires. He was much ridiculed for doing so as wild animals were abundant for meat. Hogs proved to be a valuable asset to the early day pioneer, and have become one of the great products of our agricultural program.

Through the years, this picture of farming has changed greatly. The cabins have given way to frame houses, constantly improved with the inventions and discoveries that progress has made. Tallow candles became a forgotten means of light, when kerosene lamps were introduced. These in turn belonged to the past when the era of electricity began. The modern home today is a wonder of light and convenience. The farm home with the help of electricity boasts the most-up-to-date equipment—refrigerators, washing machines, stoves, vacuum cleaners, sewing machines, deep freezer, electrically controlled heating units and electrical gadgets to do all the beating, whipping, mixing and general tasks of the modern home. They also have bathrooms, telephones, radios and television. What a great change this harnessing of electricity has made in the living conditions of an agricultural people!

The tilling of the soil has changed in just as great a degree. Horses and oxen as a means of power in farming are only a memory. Our farmers have learned to utilize machinery and electricity to help in their farming operations. Tractors have become the means of pulling all kinds of power machinery that progress has given us — planters, plows, discs, mowers, hay rakes, spreaders, loaders, combines, corn huskers, hay balers and choppers. Electricity pumps water and grinds feed for stock, lights the barns, elevates grain into bins. Through the years, improvements have come to farm machinery and the first corn planter bears little resemblence to the modern four row one used today.

The main crops of the township are corn, oats, soybeans, hogs, cattle and poultry. Programs for agriculture that include commercial fertilizer, terraced hillsides, crop rotations, animal sanitation and contour planting have been accepted by hardworking, self reliant and resourceful farmers to make the township prosperous.

From a trackless wilderness, a thriving town has emerged because of the vision of energetic settlers. Cultivated farmlands, possessing great productivity, humming with the noise of working machinery is the con-

Dumont — Year 1935 — Looking north on Main Street

BOB'S TAVERN

Beer — Cigarettes — Lunches

CONGRATULATIONS

Dumont Iowa

MILLER'S ONE-STOP
SINCLAIR PRODUCTS on Hiway 3

Plate Dinners — Short Orders
GOOD FOOD

Phone 22 C Dumon,t Iowa

DR. H. F. ENGEL
CHIROPRACTOR

Dumont, Iowa Phone 19 C

SALLY'S PLA-MOR

POOL — BEER — CIGARETTES

CONGRATULATIONS

Dumont Iowa

THE DUMONT JOURNAL

PUBLISHERS
and
COMMERCIAL JOB PRINTERS

Birthday Calendars a Specialty

Dumont Iowa

tribution made by farmers of this community.

Education

With all the problems of pioneer living, this settlement of progressive and energetic people did not forget the education of their children and so two subdistricts for schools were made in Pittsford Township. District No. 1 comprised the east half of Pittsford and west half of West Point and Miss Martha J. Niece was the first teacher. The east part of Ingham Township in Franklin County and the west half of Pittsford in Butler County made up District No. 2 with Miss Melissa M. Overturf as the first teacher. These two log school houses built in 1856 were the setting for the first schools ever taught in these townships.

Several changes were made from time to time as was required and in 1866, the township was redistricted. Seven school houses were erected in the township at an average cost of about $800 each. Some necessary changes were made, but this set-up functioned until 1916, when some of the rural districts were consolidated with the town of Dumont.

In pioneer days the school house was the center of the social life of the community. All meetings were held there, often their religious services, so it was a very important part of early day living. One of those places of learning was outstanding in its importance to the community and still functions today. It is the Little Yellow Schoolhouse in section 5 where this community spirit has been kept alive from early days.

Dumont provided for the education of its children by holding school in the first house built there. This continued to be the place of learning until the fall of 1882 when a one room building was erected at a cost of $1000, the district paid $800 and the rest was furnished by S. B. Dumont.

The one room school house was moved across the street and a new building erected in 1894. This was a four room structure and four teachers were now employed. In 1905 the building was enlarged by the addition of two more rooms. The old part was remodeled which brought the entire cost up to the sum of $7000. There was now a high school room and two more teachers were hired making the total six. Miss Alice Swope was hired as principal of the school and started teach-

Dumont Schoolhouse built in 1905

Farmers Co-op. Grain Co.

Dealers in

GRAIN — COAL — FEEDS

TILE & CEMENT

WIRE & STEEL POSTS

★ FELCO
★ SARGENT
&
★ KENT FEEDS

Congratulations Butler County Fair

Phone 41 Dumont, Iowa

Community Co-op Oil Co.

Station & Tank Wagon Service

Firestone Tires

Congratulations to the

Butler County Fair

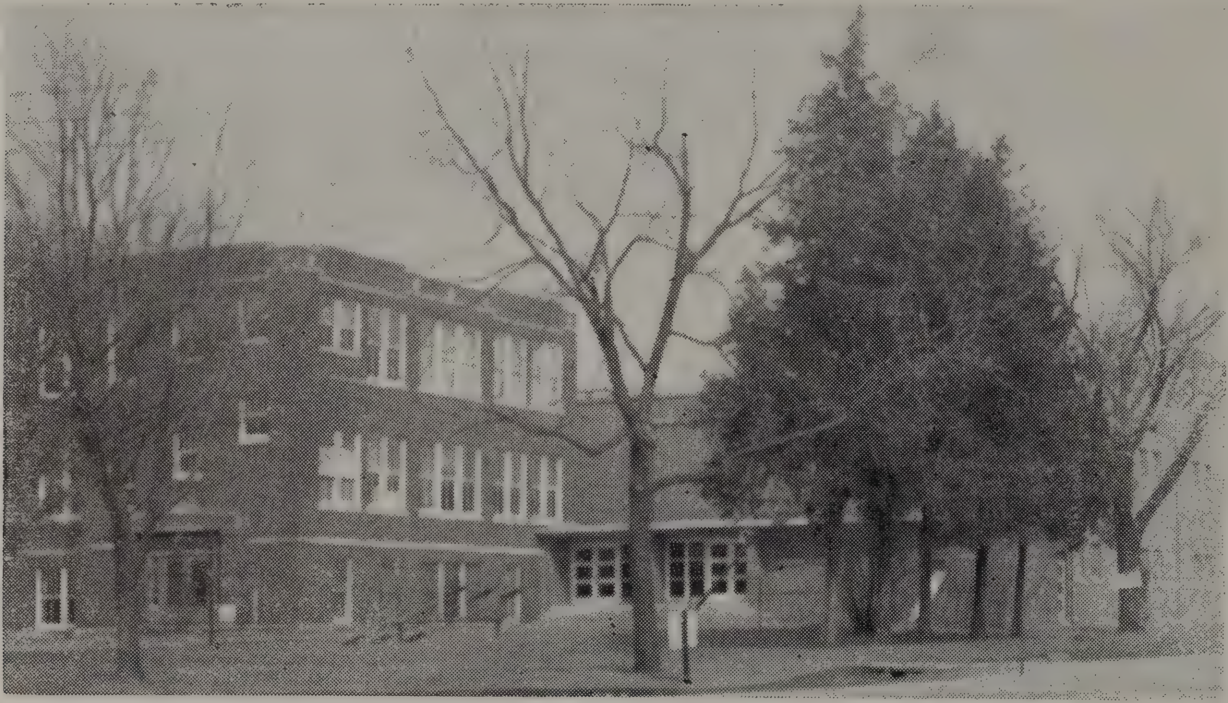
on its Centennial Year

Phone 77

Dumont Iowa

ing in 1905. She began at once to set up a grade system in the school indicating certain requirements to be met in each grade. She did a fine job of organization and is remembered now after fifty years as an outstanding example of consecrated teaching. The first class graduated in 1906 from the eleventh grade with four members, all of which recall her great service to Dumont. Miss Alice Cowie became the principal after Miss Swope left and carried on the work with great efficiency and dedication. Much credit is due her for her untiring efforts during this period of organization.

Several outlying rural districts consolidated with the Dumont district and in 1916 a new brick school building was begun at a cost of $60,000. In the fall of 1917, the



THE HOME OF QUALITY NAMES

John Deere Tractor Machinery

DeLaval Separators & Milkers

Good Year Tires & Tubes

Zenith & Westinghouse Radios

Iowa Dairy Separators

Frigidaire Elec. Refrigerators

Elec. Motors & Appliances

Skelgas Appliances

Wills Implement Company

Phone 24 C Dumont, Iowa

SPRINGERS
PAINTS & WALLPAPER
Paints for All Purposes
Dumont Phone 1 C Iowa

KENNEDY BEAUTY SHOP

Phone 109 for Appointment

Dumont Iowa

CLEMEN'S GARAGE

Modern Repair Shop
Repairs on all makes including
Brake Drum Turning, Front End Alignment, Wheel Balancing, Cylinder Head Grinding, Sun Motor Testing.
Repair on Automatic Transmissions and Overdrives

Dumont Phone 138 Iowa

new building was ready for occupancy with a corps of ten teachers. At the same time, the school was reorganized and the twelfth grade added. The old frame school house was torn down and rebuilt into the theatre by the I.O.O.F. Lodge, and today is still in use as lodge rooms on the second floor. Four residences were also moved away and the school yard comprised the entire block.

In 1953 a new gymnasium was added at a cost of $105,000, bonding the district for $90,000. The old gymnasium was converted into three new grade classrooms, a cafeteria and kitchen for hot lunches. The new gymnasium provides a community hall that was badly needed. A stage was constructed along the west side, and the gymnasium is made available for plays, community all-church cantatas, and other community gatherings. Much credit must be given to Supt. J. Edward Lee for his untiring effort to promote a good school program during the nine years he has been in Dumont. The school now employs seventeen teachers.

During this fifty year period a total of 825 young people have graduated from Dumont. Two classes vie for honors in having the largest number to graduate — 1929 and 1949, each have thirty-one graduates.

An unusual event must be mentioned in our history of Dumont School. Each year a dinner is given by the members of the Alumni for the graduating class. The last dinner was given in June in the new gymnasium at which three hundred forty-four were present. Also a collection is taken up at this time and something bought for the school — this year the money was used to purchase new chairs. This annual event has kept alive a feeling of interest in the school and its problems and has been a very great factor in the promotion of a fine school — community relationship.

Fifty years of Dumont graduates have given to our country a list that contains almost all the professions, vocations and trades. Graduates living in the United States and foreign countries have excelled in outstanding achievements, and Dumont can well be proud of the young people sent from her school.

Religion

The first sermon preached in Pittsford Township was by Rev. Richard Merrill a Presbyterian minister, in the spring of 1854 at the home of John Boylan.

Soon after the first settlement in the township, the Methodists commenced to hold revival meetings each winter in the school house at Boylan's grove and continued as long as the old school house remained standing.

Other denominations exhibited a good deal of religious zeal at different times, among them the Advent Church, the United Brethren, and Presbyterian. However, we have no rural churches in Pittsford Township and so will use Dumont as our religious background.

Evangelical Church

In 1876, H. Kleinsorgn commenced to preach in the home of H. Ahrens, but soon transferred the appoint-

DUMONT MERCANTILE CO.

1921 — 1956

FOR THE BEST IN

★ GROCERIES

★ CLOTHING

★ SHOES

A GOOD PLACE TO TRADE

J. W. Peterson

Estella M. Peterson

ment to a school house south of there. In 1882 this group was added to the Hampton Circuit. Rev. L. Scheurer commenced his labors in Dumont in 1884 and held a revival which resulted in more than twenty conversions. This established a north group and when Rev. V. Griese came as pastor, he consolidated this group and the south one. They built a frame church 28 ft. by 60 ft. at a cost of $2500. Among the members of this church were the J. J. Baumgartner, H. Ahrens, Uriah Richards, H. Ebling, Geo. Schuler, Henry Bluhm, Wm. Boedker, Marty and Rodamacher families. In 1904 the Dumont and Hampton affiliation was broken, and Dumont and Aredale were combined.

In 1906, while Rev. Engel was pastor, a parsonage was built about a block and a half northwest of the church at a cost of $1577.00.

The congregation increased in numbers until the church building was inadequate and so was torn down. A new place of worship was erected on the site at a cost of $7000. This frame building 56 ft. by 62 ft. was dedicated on Feb. 13, 1916.

The usable lumber obtained from the old church was used to build a new parsonage 28 ft. by 28 ft. just north of the church in 1916 at a cost of 3,590 while Rev. G. Cawelti was pastor.

Rev. C. Zietlow is the present pastor of this church, the first in Dumont, that owes its beginning to the pioneers that believed that God should be an influence in settling a new community.

Methodist Church

The first services of Methodism were held in what was destined to be the town of Dumont in the winter of 1871 and 1872 by Rev. Sproul. This minister was employed by Samuel B. Dumont and J. N. McManus, who paid him $50 for his services. The first regular pastor sent by the conference to Dumont was Rev. W. A. Pottle, who also served Allison. On August 4, 1891, the Methodist church was organized and in 1892 a building was erected with S. McManus, J. N. McManus, W. R. Straight, G. G. Bennett and David Arne as trustees. The plans for the church were designed by Caroline Dumont and her son Dr. T. A. Dumont — a frame structure costing $3,000. There were forty members and an average Sunday School attendance of seventy-five.

Previous to this time, the congregation had held services in the Evangelical church. Caroline Dumont gave a lot for the Methodist parsonage which was built in 1893 at a cost of $1,200. The bell for the church, weighing 925 lbs. was shipped to Rev. J. Myers from St. Louis in 1898 and placed in the church tower that had been ready since 1892.

The Methodist church has been remodeled, once after a destructive fire in 1938 but it still stands in its original design. Rev. J. Neal Clemmer serves now as pastor to a congregation that appreciates his guidance.

United Brethren Church

In 1893 John Boots, Lyman Hall, J. H. Marken, Wil-

W B. WATERS, D.V.M.

LARGE AND SMALL

ANIMAL PRACTITIONER

Phone 12 C
Dumont, Iowa

DUMONT HATCHERY

Poultry Service
Gland-O-Lac
Disease Resistant Line
Salsbury's
Cross Leghorns and Line Cross
Remedies
Specials are Bred to Lay
Phone 103 X
Harold Overturf, Mgr.
Dumont, Iowa

Dumont Grocery & Locker

Locker Service

Groceries and Meats

Phone 21 C

Dumont
Iowa

KNOCK and BECKER

ROOFING — INSULATION — SIDING

Rusco Windows, Awnings

Phone 109

Charles City
Iowa

liam Titus, and W. R. Straight organized the United Brethren Church wth Rev. A. King as the first pastor. Their first meetings were held in the Evangelical church. In 1895, the board of trustees let the contract to Wm. Schulenburg for the construction of a church building costing $3,000. which was dedicated on January 13, 1896. A parsonage was built in 1900 just east of the church at a cost of $1,400.

The church has been remodeled changing its outward appearance. The greatest amount of work was done in 1948 and 1949 when Rev. Talbot was pastor at a cost of $4,000. The inside of the church and its parlors were also redecorated in 1952 at a cost of $1,000, at which time the church was rededicated.

Rev. Mitchell has served five years as pastor of this working congregation of one hundred sixty members with a Sunday School that has an average attendance of eighty-seven.

St. Francis Church

St. Francis church was built in 1890 during the pastorate of Father Kelly who was stationed at Parkersburg. Among its earliest communicants were the Bannons, Doyles, Angstmanns, Kirbys and Kellys.

Prior to the erection of the church, these people were attended from Ackley, mass being held in the prairie homes.

At the present time Father Claude Norton serves Dumont and Geneva in conjunction with Hampton where he resides.

The church still stands in its original design and has served as a meeting place for the faithful members of the congregation throughout more than sixty-five years.

Reformed Church

Rev. G. Veeneker began preaching to the people of this faith in the community that had moved here. They requested that a church be organized and so on October 23, 1912 this was done with thirty charter members.

They erected a frame building at a cost of $5,000 and along with others who joined them began their church life under the leadership of their first pastor, Rev. Frederich Bosch. The first elders elected were Geo. Claasan and W. Wearda. B. Lolling and E. Dohlman were the first deacons elected. Soon after the church was built, the congregation bought a house just north of the church to be used as a parsonage.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1940, the church caught on fire and burned to the ground. The congregation began work at once to rebuild and erected a brick structure at a cost of $$12,000 which was dedicated on November 20, 1941.

In 1954, the parsonage was remodeled to a considerable extent, adding to its utility and beauty.

With over a hundred families in this congregation and an enrollment of one hundred sixty in Sunday School, the church building is no longer adequate. A program of enlargement and remodeling will be undertaken this summer. The addition of 36 ft. by 40 ft. will provide extra Sunday School classrooms, choir loft and added space in the church proper. This plan will cost between $15,000 and $20,000. Rev. Esdert Smidt is the present pastor of this thriving church that adds much to the religious background of Dumont.

Library

The first efforts to establish a library in Dumont were a donation of a number of books by Mrs. W. Hutchinson, Mrs. Icea Wilcox and Miss Carrie Cook. They were housed in a small building just west of the present library. The rent was $5 per month, the first books loaned in January 1922 and the three above mentioned ladies acted as librarians. Other people donated books and plays were given to pay incurred expenses.

Mr. H. C. Brown bought a lot and constructed Dumont library bulding at a cost of $4,000 and presented it to the town in memory of the tiny gentle lady who was his wife. The building was finished in 1926 and the first trustees were Geo. Brown, Dr. Roder, Jennie Anderson, Mrs. Icea Wilcox and R. J. Carroll. The citizens of the community contributed to the furnishings and equipment for the library, which now has about five thousand books Nearly two thousand people have been issued library cards. Last year, almost 10,000 books were taken out by the readers of the community.

Geo. Brown was the first librarian. Mrs. Stella Johnson was appointed by the town officials on March 1, 1946 and still acts as librarian of the Mary F. Brown memorial library.

In her name, who can tell the benefit in education, pleasure and culture that this memorial has brought to the people of Dumont vicinity?

Transportation and Travel

The earliest method of moving from place to place was to walk along the almost hidden trails or to go on horseback.

The first bridges were built in Butler County in 1858, but none of them were located in Pittsford Township. As late as 1867, Mr. H. C. Brown recalls that there were no bridges. Thus it was necessary to ford the streams. Rocks were laid in the creek bed to make a solid footing, and can be located even to day

Stagecoaches were used for distance traveling. One type known as the Concord drawn by four horses cost about $1,000 and could carry nine passengers. The fare was five to seven cents per mile to ride as it rumbled along about five miles per hour.

Later, traveling was done in wagons with spring seats or in buggies drawn by horses. Hitching posts were set in Dumont in various parts to which the horses were tied. Almost everyone kept a driving horse, but the town of Dumont had a livery stable to accommodate those who wished to hire horses.

The first railroad, the Dubuque and Dakota, now known as Chicago Great Western was built by Dubuque

J. Francis Allan

Chas. J. Miller

GREETINGS:

Words are not quite adequate to express our sincere appreciation for the untiring and loyal cooperation of all our friends and associates in undertaking this big task to make the Butler County Centennial Fair a remarkable success.

Hundreds of persons from over the county have shared in a collective effort to give our citizens a rekindled pride in their heritage of history — a new faith in their tomorrow.

All business—industry—professions, churches, schools and civic organizations have closed rank in a common cause. They have demonstrated that Butler County consists of mighty fine people who have an instinct for working together.

The Butler County Centennial Fair is the highlight of many months of planning and hard work. It now has its climax in the great Historical Fair Spectacle and we have faith that its echo will be highlighted and a continuing community loyalty dawns for Butler County.

So — to all our friends and worthy associates — we say
"You have done a great job and rest assured that it will show a complete record of most successful efforts and have lasting memories for years to come."

J. Francis Allan

J. Francis Allan — President

Chas. J. Miller

Chas. J. Miller — Secretary

1856 1956

Butler County Centennial Fair Committees

HISTORICAL

Mrs. Louise Riggert	Allison
Mrs. W. C. Shepard	Allison
Mrs. Glenn Thompson	Shell Rock
Mrs. Helen Lang	Parkersburg
Mrs. Cliff Fischer	Greene
Mrs. Gomer Evans	Clarksville
Mrs. Edwin Pfaltzgraff	Dumont
Mrs. Sylvia Martin	Aplington
Mrs. Nettie VanLoh	Austinville
H. O. Geyer	New Hartford
Charles Yost, Sr.	Bristow
Ray Tindall	Aredale

PAGEANT

Norman Satory	Clarksville
Mrs. Gladys Pagel	Allison
Mrs. Victor Adair	Shell Rock
Mrs. H. J. Carter	Clarksville
Mrs. Howard Knutson	Parkersburg
Mrs. Zoe Chambers	Clarksville
Mrs. Francis Clemens	Dumont
Mrs. Chester Nelson	Aplington
Mrs. Evelyn Shaw	New Hartford
Miss Fern Walsh	Bristow
Mrs. Alfred McWilliams	Aredale
Mrs. Helena Boller	Greene

PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

Don Riggs	Parkersburg
Herman Faber	Parkersburg
Howard Werner	Allison
Chas. J. Miller	Allison
Newton Page	Dumont
F. R. Meyer	Aplington
Jake Muller	Aplington
Koert Freese	Parkersburg
D. A. Nicholsen	New Hartford
Chas. Thompson	Shell Rock
F. B. Martin	Clarksville
Claire Merfield	Bristow
W. K. Junker	Aredale

BARBECUE & OLD SETTLERS

Harry Wilder	Allison
John Baker	Allison
Harold Wills	Dumont
Mrs. Herbert Wedeking	Clarksville
Sherman Fyler	Shell Rock
Bert Pooley	Greene
H. H. Lindeman	Aplington
F. G. Wessel	New Hartford
Harold Conn	Parkersburg
Gene Reser	Bristow
Mrs. James Graven	Greene
Geo. Stewart	Bristow

ANTIQUE

J. B. Weires	Allison
Mrs. Christena Hampel	Allison
Edward Bartels	Parkersburg
Mrs. Reece Bolin	Clarksville
Mrs. Frank Garner	Shell Rock
Emmett Hanley	Greene
Myrvel DeArmoun	Dumont
Chris Fisher	Aplington
Mrs. Roy Youngberg	New Hartford
Miss Sue Frerichs	Bristow
Mrs. Orville Ebling	Aredale

PARADE

E. W. Schrage	Allison
Eugene Schrage	Allison
Carl Boeckemeier	Dumont
Mrs. Chester Harmon	New Hartford
Clarence Meyer	Aplington
Marvin Reynolds	Shell Rock
John McRoberts	Greene
Donald Harris	Clarksville
William T. Huisman	Parkersburg
Robert Ressler	Bristow
Ed Skinner	Aredale

1856 BUTLER COUNTY CEN

August 2 -

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

Entry Day — 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Thursday Evening — Gates Open at 5:00 p.m.

8:00 pm. — Annual Saddle Horse Show

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

Children's Day — All Rides 15c — 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m.—Band Concert
1:30 p.m.—Rollercade and Free Acts
2:00 p.m.—County-wide Parade — Tim Holt of TV and Radio Fame Heading the Procession
2:00 p.m.—Baseball Game

Friday Evening

7:00 p.m.—Band Concert
7:30 p.m.—Rollercade and Free Acts
8:30 p.m.—Parade of Fashions

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

1:00 p.m.—Band Concert
2:00 p.m.—Complete Program of Free Acts
2:00 p.m.—Baseball Game

Saturday Evening

7:00 p.m.—Band Concert
7:30 p.m.—Crowning of the Centennial Queens
8:15 p.m.—Butler County Talent Show
9:15 p.m.—Varied Program of Free Attractions

ENNIAL FAIR PROGRAM 1956

3 - 4 - 5 - 6

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

Gates Open at 12:00 o'clock Noon.
1:00 p.m.—Band Concert
2:00 p.m.—Century of Progress Pageant
2:00 p.m.—Baseball Game
3:00 p.m.—Free Attractions on Stage

Sunday Evening

7:00 p.m.—Band Concert
7:30 p.m.—Centennial Pageant of Progress
8:30 p.m.—Big Program of Free Attractions

MONDAY, AUGUST 6

12:00 Noon—Old Settler's Picnic
12:00 Noon Till 3:00 p.m.—Free Barbeque
1:00 p.m.—Band Concert
2:00 p.m.—Baseball Game
2:00 p.m.—Horse Racing

Monday Evening

7:00 p.m.—Band Concert
7:30 p.m.—Whisker Contest Judging
8:30 p.m.—Square Dancing
9:00 p.m.—Grand Finale Fireworks Display

Baseball Games—Between Butler County League Teams

Free Acts include Ventriloquist, Aerial Trapeze Artists, Clowns with Midget Cars, Cyclists, and many other fine acts by world famous entertainers.

Square Dancing will be on stage in front of grandstand.

Centennial Fair Committees, Continued

WHISKER

J. Francis Allan	Allison
Phil Schultz	Allison
Fred Knocke	Parkersburg
Dick Gerdes	Dumont
Eldon Christensen	Clarksville
Dale Brinkman	New Hartford
R. F. Schoneman	Aplington
Otto Schmidtke	Greene
Reiner Wubbena	Bristow
Kline Shipman	Shell Rock
Bud Kuehn	Shell Rock

SUNBONNET SUE & COSMETICS

Mrs. Roy Merfeld	Bristow
Mrs. Christine Hampel	Allison
Mrs. Art Juhl	New Hartford
Mrs. Harlan Kneppe	Parkersburg
Mrs. Harry Voss	Aplington
Mrs. Ray Hansen	Aplington
Mrs. Lowell Meehan	Dumont
Mrs. Galen Hesalroad	Greene
Mrs. Robert McDowell	Clarksville
Mrs. Reiner Wubbena	Bristow
Mrs. Glenn Stockdale	Austinville
Mrs. Floyd Needham	Aredale

CENTENNIAL QUEENS

Mrs. Heinie Uhlenhopp	Dumont
Mrs. John Stock	Dumont
Mrs. Wm. Andrews	Greene
Mrs. Wayne Martin	Shell Rock
Lloyd Leyen	Clarksville
Burton Mitchel	Allison
Mrs. John Gautney	Aplington
Mrs. Dale Brinkman	New Hartford
Mrs. Myron Guggisberg	Parkersburg
Mrs. John Uhlenhopp	Kesley
Mrs. Dean Merfeld	Bristow
Mrs. Darwin Noelting	Aredale

SPORTS

K. W. Brandt	Allison
Howard Werner	Allison
Bud Bramer	Aredale
Chas. Zimmerman	Aredale
Holger Halm	New Hartford

FASHION PARADE

Mrs. Gertrude Stockdale	Aplington
Mrs. Ione Allan	Allison
Mrs. Joe Janssen	Parkersburg
Mrs. Vernon Kyhl	Parkersburg
Mrs. Lloyd Perrin	New Hartford
Mrs. D. U. Harken	Aplington
Mrs. Chris Hoodjer	Clarksville
Mrs. Chas. Thompson	Shell Rock
Mrs. Kenneth Shear	Dumont
Mrs. Joe Nygaard	Bristow
Mrs. Galen Hesalroad	Greene

LOCAL TALENT SHOW

Bud Bramer	Aredale
Howard Werner	Allison
Newton Page	Dumont
Koert Freese	Parkersburg
D. A. Nicholsen	New Hartford
Chas. Thompson	Shell Rock
F. B. Martin	Clarksville
Jake Muller	Aplington
W. K. Junker	Aredale
Claire Merfield	Bristow
Herman Faber	Parkersburg

HATS, BUTTONS & TIES

Dayton Mather	Greene
Chas. Miller	Allison
Kline Shipman	Shell Rock
Guy Carpenter	Clarksville
Dale Willey	Greene
Riley Britcher	Dumont
Russel Hansen	Bristow
Shields Sloan	Aplington
D. U. Harken	Aplington
Wayne Froemming	Parkersburg
John Uhlenhopp	Kesley
Beryl Richards	Aredale
Dale Brinkman	New Hartford

capitalists, through Dumont in 1879. The grading of the railroad bed, using horses and slips to carry the dirt and by hand labor, was begun in 1872, but the steel was not laid until 1879.

Gratuities were contributed by people along the line of a railroad and Mr. S. B. Dumont donated ten acres of land to the company in order to induce them to put the railroad through his proposed townsite.

The Northwestern Railroad built its lines through Dumont in 1900, thus providing a two railroad juncture.

Then came the era of the automobile. The first one in Dumont owned by Dr. J. N. Cunningham was a single cylinder Cadillac with a chain drive and could travel nearly ten miles per hour. The automobile brought about a change in the roads. The rutty lanes disappeared and graded roads with gravel topping came to Pittsford Township with paved state highway No. 3 running through Dumont.

As one travels through the township today in a modern automobile on excellent roads and notes the lights from the farms that spill into the darkness, memory recalls the great advance in transportation. One can also recall traveling in an unlighted horse and buggy transport with no lights from farm homes as beacons. Surely a transition from darkness to light in transportation!

Dumont Cemetery

The first acre of cemetery land in the form of a square was given to the town of Dumont by Dr. T. A. Dumont and his mother. The first burial was S. B. Dumont in April 1890

The Dumont Cemetery Association was organized May 1, 1890 at a meeting in which J. M. Wilson, A. F. Bickford, H. C. Brown, Dr. T. A. Dumont, Fred Pfaltzgraff, W. H. Mack, J. N. McManus, J. W. McManus, and James Harlan signed the papers of incorporation. The Articles of organization stated that the purpose was to provide a burial place for the dead, to fence same, lay out lots, improve and beautify the grounds. The by-laws were adopted April 23, 1904.

On May 19, 1904 another acre of ground just north of the original square was bought of Dr. T. A. Dumont at the cost of $175.00.

The trustees of the association seemed to feel that they needed help and asked the ladies of the community to form an auxiliary organization. On September 18, 1906 the Dumont Cemetery Improvement Association was organized with Mrs. Arthur Gillett, president, Mrs. Henry Day, first vice-president; Mrs. H. Loomis, second vice-president; Mrs. L. E. Davis, secretary; and Mrs. J W. Cunningham, treasurer.

In August 1907, the two organizations met in joint session and moved to purchase the iron fence that encloses the cemetery today. The cement sidewalk was completed in 1911 and also trees were planted on the west and south sides of the cemetery.

The money was earned by the ladies organization, giving dinners, bazaars, ice cream socials, plays, tag days and bake sales for these improvements and others through the years. It can easily be explained by pursuing the records why the ladies organization was needed.

Steven Barlow became secretary-treasurer of the Dumont Cemetery Association on December 7, 1918 and still continues in that office. Much credit is to be given to him for his untiring effort through all the years to help make Dumont Cemetery what it is today.

On April 26, 1921, the trustees bought the Joe Keefe property, that adjoined the cemetery for $350. This purchase completed the west portion of the cemetery. Dr. T. A. Dumont sold another plot of land 218 ft. by 226 ft. to the cemetery in March 1931. On September 17, 1953 a strip of land on the east side, 247½ ft. by 181 ft. was purchased from Henry Miller for $1,000. Arnold Hartgraves was paid $250 for another portion of land and the town of Dumont gave a street end for cemetery use. About six acres are now included in the burial ground.

The driveways in the cemetery are graveled, the main drives bordered by maple trees. The ornamental iron fence has been decorated with aluminum paint, helping to beautify the grounds. This acreage provides a beautiful and well-kept cemetery for those in the community who desire to make Dumont their final resting place.

Pilltown Cemetery

The Pilltown Cemetery Association was organized on March 24, 1883 by A. E. Barnes, Thomas DeMoss, T. M. Early, W. P. Woodworth, W. R. Nichols, Lou Austin, Ira Chapman, L. J. Austin, Peter Ebling, Frank Playter and Joseph Titus. About thirty-five burials had been made previously to this time. The first was that of a son of N. G. Niece who was buried on January 1864. This well-kept cemetery has been made so by extra activities of the organization such as suppers and bazaars. Mrs. George Stewart is president; Mrs. Harley Duffield, secretary; and Mrs. Lyle Surfus, treasurer.

Harlan Cemetery

The original land was donated by a member of the Harlan family although other purchases have been made since, bringing the burial ground to about four acres. This acreage was used by the early settlers in the west part of Pittsford Township and east part of Ingham Township in Franklin County. John Harlan, Sr. was the first to be buried here in December 1855. The Harlan Cemetery Association was not organized until October 6, 1894 by George Schuler, Levi Reed; James Evans, who was first president; William Jamison, secretary; Theodore Ahrens, treasurer; and James Harlan, sexton. The Annual Memorial service brings old settlers families from northern Iowa and southern Minnesota to reminisce and a strong feeling of community spirit is manifested at these gatherings.

Communication

The pioneer day means of communication were a rider on horseback carrying a message from neighbor to neighbor in an emergency. Otherwise news came from occasional visitations. Early in the twentieth century, the telephone came to Pittsford Township. H. C. Brown strung a line from his home to several of his farms, and used the first telephone to convey messages to his tenants.

In a short time, however, the Ingham Township Telephone Company in Franklin County extended their lines to Dumont and gradually increased in customers until everyone has a telephone in this day.

Events and Other Data

Hannah Boylan, a daughter of Isaac Boylan was the first child born in Pittsford Township in the fall of 1853.

W. R. Jamison was the first resident of the township to cast a vote.

The first lawsuit in the township was before Henry A. Early, justice of the peace.

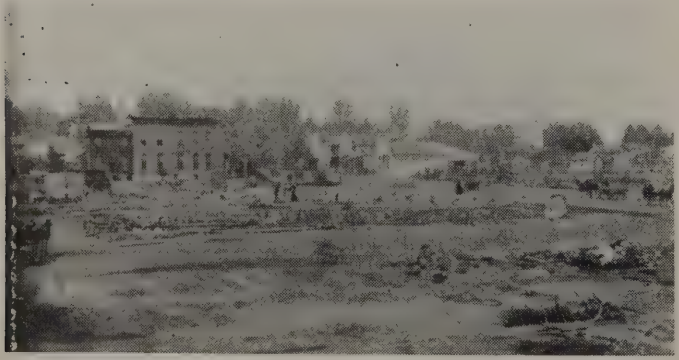
Greenbury Luck and Miss Williams were the first residents of Pittsford to be married. The wedding was at Clarksville. However, the first marriage to take place in the township was that of Sarah Ann Moots and Johnathan Armstrong in 1853.

Pittsford township pioneers received their mail in Janesville in Bremer County or in Cedar Falls in Black Hawk. Finally a post office was established at Clarksville. Jehu Harlan who lived on section 19 contracted for the delivery of the mail along a route that led from Clarksville to Hampton. He hired his brother-in-law Abijah (Jud) Hartgraves who drove a stagecoach, changing horses at the Harlan place.

Nick Huss was the father of the first child born in Dumont in 1880.

On January 3, 1880, the first death occurred in the town, that of Mrs. Sarah Townsend, aged 89 years.

Mr. Hudson Burr built the first house in Dumont area, just east of town on Highway No. 3. He had four daughters and two sons and they all married and lived in the same house. This large structure still stands, and houses a farm family today.



Dumont May, 1901 — Next Day after the Fire.

A disastrous fire swept over the business district of Dumont in 1901 and wiped out almost every business establishment. The fire started in a livery stable in the night. However, the business men rebuilt and a whole block of brick buildings replaced the former places of business. Again in 1925, a fire started in the Thomas Leese Variety store and burned this place. This building was rebuilt. In October 1945 the brick hotel building burned to the ground, destroying the only sizeable building that did not burn in the fire of 1901.

Among the long established business places dating back before the turning of the twentieth century are Wilcox Harness and Shoe Shop owned now by Milt Schuler; State Bank of Dumont established in 1895; Pfaltzgraff Hardware which is still owned by Lloyd Pfaltzgraff; and Brown Lumber Company which remained in the family until 1939, when L. W. Ellis began operation.

Dr. T. A. Dumont donated the land for the park. On a slowly rising incline, the well-kept grounds with the many beautiful trees add nature's touch as well as providing an ideal place for many a family or community picnic. In 1955, the Lions Club built a band shell on the south side and the park became the site for the weekly summer band concerts.

With all the vision of the future that the early pioneers possessed, they could hardly foresee the wonderful standard of living that is ours in Pittsford Township. God grant that we, of this day, may be inspired by the memory of their great achievements, to improve and pass on our great heritage to the generations to come.

THE BUTLER COUNTY FAIR

Uses and Recommends

Advertising **Trophies**

Ribbons **Supplies**

Regalia and Crowns for Queens

Manufactured by

REGALIA MFG. CO.

Rock Island, Illinois

Frank Sharp, Repr.

Dayton Township

By Mrs. Cliff Fischer

Dayton township in northern tier of townships in Butler County, lies between Coldwater and Fremont townships, and is mostly high rolling prairie of great fertility. The Shell Rock River runs through the township from northeast to southwest, and parallel to it is the Rock Island Railroad, formerly the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad. Coldwater and Flood creeks flow through the township, emptying into the Shell Rock River within the township.

It is uncertain who was the first settler on the fertile prairie of Dayton, but the honor is given to William Goheen, who settled here in March 1852. He had 40 acres in the center of the township and built a little hewn log house. He died in June of 1853; the first death in the township.

James Griffith came with his family in 1853, and was followed by R. W. Butler, Levi Burress, James Blake, Phillip Ebersold, William Gough, Hugh Thomas, P. Ebersold, Delano McCain, John Boggs, and John J. Eikenberry Mr. Eikenberry was a preacher of the German Baptist faith, but the first religious services in the township were held in the home of James Griffith in 1854, by Israel Shafer, of the United Brethren denomination.

The first school in Dayton township was held in the fall of 1858, in a frame building, 20 by 20 feet, costing $500.00. At one time there were ten school districts in the township, with school buildings in each, but by 1956 most of them were closed and the pupils are attending the schools in Clarksville or Greene.

The first marriage in the township was that of J. W. Goheen and Mary Burress. Their daughter, Isabelle, was the first child born in the township.

In 1871 St. Mary's Catholic Church was built near Coldwater creek on 30 acres of land donated by Wm. Nettleton, who lived in Coldwater Township just west across the road. The church was in Section 30, Dayton Township; being on the very west edge of the township. Charles Coffey, Captain of Co. H. 23rd Regiment, Ill. Inft., was killed when his team ran away, while hauling lumber from Waverly to build the new church, and was the first to be buried in the newly laid out cemetery of St. Mary's of the Coldwater. Now, although the church was closed in 1905 and later sold to W. M. Lovell, who tore it down in 1923, four long rows of lilacs, planted in the early days, still are a land mark in 1956, and make the spot a place of beauty every spring. Many early settlers are buried in Coldwater Cemetery.

There was a small burial ground on the banks of Coldwater creek in Dayton Township on what is now (1956) the Amos Kingery farm. There are five marked stones, which show A & C. A. Hardman died April 18, 1872, age 16 years, 3 months — John W. Hardman died November 17, 1853 — John Hardman, died December 20, 1858 — Allan Kingery died August 19, 1854 and Sarah E. Kingery died September 19, 1857. There may be some graves that are not marked.

Farmers Co-operative

Creamery Association

Manufacturers of Fine Dairy Products

Greene — Iowa

"Bob" Mead Drug "Jim"

Phone 10

Greene — Iowa

Congratulations

B. & W. Super Market

HOME OF QUALITY FOODS

Greene Iowa

There is another cemetery in the township just south of Greene on the Harry Ott farm, which was founded by the Church of the Brethren of Greene, built in 1873.

A few years after the railroad came through, a few houses, a store and a cheese factory, which made Swiss, American and Brick cheese, were built half way between Greene and Clarksville. It was known as Root's Siding; the Root family lived in what is now the Burroughs farm, south of the present Village of Packard. Whenever they wanted to flag a train, they would go down to Roots, and Mrs. Root would flag the train for them. She was known for her hospitality, the traveler was fortified with a cup of coffee or tea and a lunch while waiting for a train.

Coldwater Township

The first settlers of the township were two men by the names of Lacon and Bennett in the fall of 1851. They stayed but a short time. James Griffith came in 1852; John Hart, John Miller in 1853; Soloman Sturtz and Philip Moss in 1855; Felix Landis, Jacob Kingery and others in 1856.

In 1854 the William Nettleton family came to Butler County and settled on the present Nettleton farm in Coldwater Township on Section 25. Mrs. Wm. Nettleton, the former Maria Hagarty, was a native of Ireland, and had taught school in Dublin. In 1855 her mother, Mrs. Pat Hagarty, and sons Lawrence, Tom, Pat and James, and daughter, Eliza, also came to Butler County.

In 1857, there being no Catholic Church, Father Durant, Missionary Priest, who had the territory of northern Iowa and southern Minnesota, offered the first Holy Sacrament of the Mass in the humble cabin of Mr. and Mrs. William Nettleton on Coldwater creek. It was the first to be held in Coldwater Township. The altar used being the piano which had been hauled from Dubuque by oxen. It took two weeks to haul it, the first piano in the county.

The township was organized in April 1855. The officers were: James Griffith and John H. Miller, Justices; J. W. Goheen, Clerk and A. Hardman and H. P. Balm, Constables.

First wedding in the township was in residence of James Griffith, when his daughter, Frances J., was married to Martin Wamsley, September 4, 1856.

These pioneers suffered all the inconveniences of the frontier life. The red man frequently strolled through, and at one time there was a rumor that the Indians were on the warpath, coming down the Shell Rock River, slaughtering all before them. Fortunately the rumor was groundless and no white man's blood was spilled.

Coldwater is one of the northern townships of the county, bounded on the east by Dayton, and on the west by Bennezette. The Shell Rock River runs diagonally across the township, Coldwater creek flows through from west to east, south of it is a smaller stream called Dry Creek, north of it is one called Crab Apple. These streams

Bathke Oil Company

Distributors of Socony-Vacuum Products

Congratulations on your Centennial Year

Greene Iowa

MAXSON - FRUDDEN

Lumber Company

Greene Iowa

JAMES H. GRAVEN

Lawyer

Greene, Iowa Phone 5

H. D. TEETERS

Jeweler — Hobby Shop

Greene Iowa

MAJEWSKI STANDARD SERVICE

Atlas Tires, Batteries & Accessories

Greene Iowa

PAT'S

Meals—Short Orders—Beer—Cigarettes

Greene Iowa

are small and usually dry. The soil is variable, along the streams, sandy, in the northern part of the township is a strip underlaid with limestone. The early settlers raised mostly wheat, most of the township made good wheat lands with its clay subsoil.

In the early fifties Mrs. Mary Hall, her 5 children and a little niece settled in the first cabin, which they built, Mr. Hall and one son, Thomas, having joined a wagon train California bound during the gold rush. Mr. Hall died during the journey out, but the son returned on the first passing. The principal groves in the township are called Lower Grove and Hall's Grove. The first sermon preached in Hall's Grove was in Mrs. Hall's cabin. Around 1888 services were held in a new school building near there, and Scott, VanLoon, Wells, Cunningham and Bakersville are among those who preached there.

Lower Grove was the larger of the two, situated mainly in Sections 13 and 14, and Hall's almost in Section 8. There is a range of hills to the southwest, the highest point is Mount Nebo.

A tradition tells of a cave under Mount Nebo. An attempt was made to explore it in 1875. A Mr. Barker and Mr. Dexter were the only ones who really made the attempt. The entrance was small but they found numerous rooms, some 8 to 12 feet high. The passage from one room to another was small and the explorers had difficulty in going from room to room. They tried to find the well that was supposed to originate in the cave, but after three or four hundred feet from the entrance they gave up the search. In several places there were supporting pillars and formations along the walls that resembled stalactites. There were still more rooms to be explored, but no one has ever explored it completely.

In 1891 the Hall's Grove Church was built and dedicated by the United Brethren people, who organized a few years before. It was located in the southwest corner of Section 8. It stood until around 1950 when it was taken away. The first Cemetery in Coldwater Township was laid out near the center of Section 8 in a wooded area along Coldwater Creek. It is still there and has quite a few graves of the early settlers.

History of the Town of GREENE

The present town of Greene stands upon land which was purchased in the summer of 1854 by John W. Miller, who died two years thereafter. After securing the property, Miller put up a small cabin, near a group of springs, which gushed out from the bases of elm trees. The diminutive habitation was thrown open to the traveler and it was called the "Home for Travelers". This was the first hotel in Greene. Mr. Miller was appointed postmaster of an office established under the name of Elm Springs, the original name of Greene. He was both postmaster and hotel keeper until his death in 1856. The log cabin, which is now (1956) being moved to the fair grounds at Allison, stood on the farm now owned by Wegand's, one mile south of Greene. It was a stage coach stop in the early days, being on the route between Cedar

GREENE CAFE

Best Wishes for a Successful Centennial

CAROL AUDREY

Good Food
at
Right Prices

Francis Knapp's Implts.

Allis-Chalmers — New Idea

Sales & Service

Phone 145 Greene, Iowa

Farmers Elevator & Feed Mill

Grain—Coal—Feed—Seed—Fertilizer
Grinding & Mixing
1906 Phone 73 1956
50 Years of Service

Greene Iowa

KLASSI MOTORS

YOUR FORD DEALER

Telephone 107

Greene Iowa

Falls and Mason City. It was a story and a half structure with a dug cellar. A leanto was a part of the original building. A shed was also on the same site, to provide shelter for the horses used on the stage coach.

Markets were distant, milling was done in Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, Independence, and at a later day at Waterloo and Cedar Falls, Janeville and Waverly. The population slowly but steadily increased up until the year the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad was extended to this township and the village of Greene was started by converting the farm house of Benjamin Eikenberry into a hotel. The property of Mr. Miller having passed into the hands of Benjamin and J. E. Eikenberry on Mr. Miller's death. A residence was built about the same time, and a store belonging to A. Moss was moved from Lower Grove.

The township voted a tax of 5% to aid in the construction of the railroad, which was to be paid on its completion through the township. In the latter part of 1871 the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad was completed through Greene and the authorities of the road purchased 160 acres of the Eikenberrys, which was laid out and platted into town lots by the railroad officials.

The new trading post was renamed 'Greene' in honor of Judge George Greene of Dubuque, president of the railroad. In September of 1871, the plat of Greene was filed with the county recorder for preservation. The railroad company also owned a large tract of land on the west side of the river, for the expansion of the town in that direction.

G. L. Mills bought the first lot of the railroad company and O. D. Barnum purchased the second one. A month after the town was platted, there were several businesses started and not even fifty people had established their residence in the embryo town. The first completed building was the one moved from Lower Grove by A. Moss. The first woman resident was the wife of A. H. Bell. He bought the Eikenberry residence and used it as a hotel.

A special election for the incorporation of the town of Greene was held on July 15, 1879. There were approximately 1000 persons living in Greene at that time. A total of 162 men voted, with 85 for incorporation and 77 against incorporation.

The first bridge across the Shell Rock River was a wagon bridge built in 1871. The county appropriated $5,000, the railroad company $1,000 and the citizens $1,000. The present bridge was built in 1903 and at that time reported to be the longest single span bridge in the state.

In 1872, a modest beginning was made toward a public library. It was first housed in Mrs. Fowler's millinery store. Money for the library was raised by putting on entertainments of all kinds and those who had books to spare donated them. In January of 1874, Judge George Greene, who then lived in Cedar Rapids and was the president of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern

KLASSI HARDWARE

Your General Electric Dealer

I R H A MEMBER

Phone 108

Greene Iowa

HARRISON'S

Jr. Dept. Store

DRY GOODS — NOTIONS
READY TO WEAR
TOYS & CANDY

Phone 291 Greene, Iowa

CLIFF'S FOOD MARKET

Cliff W. Dulin

Your Business Appreciated

Greene Iowa

M. K. SPERRY

THE INSURANCE OFFICE

Complete Insurance Service

Greene, Iowa Phone 124 or 109

Railroad gave the library twenty shares of stock in the Union Savings Bank of Cedar Rapids, this stock was disposed of and the proceeds, twelve hundred dollars was used as an endowment fund. The town, Elm Springs was renamed Greene in honor of Judge Greene.

The library was made a free library in 1925. In 1929, Mr. C. M. Mather gave the building on the corner of Traer and Second Street as a memorial library in honor of his late wife. It is known as the Laura A. Mather Memorial Library. Sizeable donations have been made to the library through the years and in 1952 there were 6,500 volumes on the shelves.

Wheat was the main crop with the earlier settlers, after the railroad came through warehouses were built to store wheat, but in a few years the warehouses couldn't take care of all the grain and it was piled up along the tracks, there was a shortage of railroad cars to move the wheat to market, and the farmers turned to raising corn. A door and sash factory was one of the early industries, a flouring mill was also built and it operated until the 1920's. A wagon factory turned out wagons and also single and double buggies. Emigrants went through in covered wagons, one day a wagon went through with this sign on the side, "Wisconsin or Bust." Another had the sign, "We've been to Dakota Territory and are busted."

The year 1854 marks the beginning of the public school in Coldwater township. In that year, James Griffith succeeded in having the township divided into two districts — No. 1 embracing the eastern part of Coldwater and a mile into Dayton township, No. 2 consisting of the western part of Coldwater.

District No. 3 was made in 1866, embracing the town of Greene, a log house being built by the people for a school. In 1873 this district was organized as the Independent School District of Greene, which took it out of the jurisdiction of the township.

A new schoolhouse was built in 1877, it was destroyed by fire in 1896. The school was first graded in 1879, when a permanent course of study in twelve grades was prepared by C. M. Greene. The first class was graduated in 1881, and the State University, on inspection of the course of study adopted, published in its annual catalogue the name of the Greene High School as one of the approved preparatory schools in the state from which graduates would be admitted to the freshman year of college without further examination.

The building burned in 1918 and a fine new building was erected, costing 200,000 dollars and a new gymnasium-auditorium was added in 1949.

In the seventies a school building was erected on the west side of the river as a business college. Later, when the college "quit business" the building was used for a grade school. It was closed in 1921, it stood idle for a number of years than the building was sold and dismantled.

WILDMAN'S
Texaco Service - Cafe
Darrell Davis, Distributor

Jacobsen Texaco Service
Firestone Tires — Delco Batteries
Greene Iowa

WILLEY'S

MEN'S AND BOY'S CLOTHING

The Best for Less

Phone 27 Greene, Iowa

MOREY'S

West Side Grocery

FREE DELIVERY

Phone 63 Greene, Iowa

Starkweather Garage

BUICK — SALES & SERVICE

Congratulations

Phone 262

Greene Iowa

New Gym, Greene, Iowa

The Greene Public School is now consolidated with seven school busses in operation daily.

Newspapers of Greene

The Butler County Press was first published in August of 1873. The publishers of the Press in 1876 were Wagner and Riner. In May of 1877 Mr. J. R. Wagner sold his interest to Mr. George E. DeLavan of Strawberry Point

In 1916 the Press was sold to the publishers of the Iowa Recorder by its editor, Benjamin Boardman and the Press was discontinued.

The Iowa Recorder was first published in August of 1883, with Amos Ingalls as editor. He sold the paper to stockholders in 1904 and bought it back in 1908. Albert Mahnke joined the firm in 1908. After Mr. Ingall's death, Mr. Mahnke became the sole owner.

In 1940 Mr. Mahnke sold the paper to Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Jones, who continued it until 1947, when it was purchased by Robert Fischer. His brother, Wayne became associated with him shortly after, being in charge of advertising and job work.

In July of 1954, Wayne purchased his brother's interest in the Recorder and at present is the sole owner.

Doctors of Greene

Dr. Nichols was the first to locate in Greene, he came in 1871, and later moved to Rockford.

Dr. V. C. Birney settled in Greene in 1872. He attended the Rush Medical College and the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk. His father was a physician.

Dr. C. C. Huckins came in 1873. He was a native of Maine and served in the Civil War.

Miss H. D. Cramer came from Wisconsin in the seventies and opened an office as a regular physician. She moved to Mason City.

Dr. William Young practiced but a short time before his death in 1878.

Dr. A. K. Johnson, a homeopathic physician graduated from Hahnemann Medical in 1878 and located

Pyle Livestock Buyers

TYDEN'S FEED

Phone 30 Greene,Iowa

Ott-Hamilton Furniture

FLOOR COVERINGS

Phone 57 Greene, Iowa

Greene Funeral Chapel

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Phone 57-X Greene, Iowa

CLAIR W. CURTIS

LOANS, INSURANCE, SURETY BONDS

We Have Nothing For Sale But Service

Greene Iowa

Looking West on Traer Street, Greene, Iowa

here in 1880.

Dr. Wengert moved here from Waverly in 1886.

Dr. A. H. Bruce came in 1887.

Dr. H. M. DeWar came from Kansas City in 1891. Other physicans were: Dr. Peter Synder, Dr. Christine Anderson, Dr. John Nevins, Dr. W. R. Arthur, Dr. R. C. Birney, Dr. L. S. Boyce, Dr. A. E. Cainey, Dr. W. E. Patterson, Dr. M. B. Call, Dr. C. W. Groom, Dr. R. M. Mayne, Dr. E. Bigelow, Dr. H. G. MacLeod, Dr. B. V. Andersen, Dr. E. C. Kepler.

Dentists were: Dr. Shaw, Dr. S. K. Rice, Dr. Jake Bing, Dr. G. H. Reynolds, Dr. Walter Stager, Dr. J. M. Wilson, Dr. P. C. Peck and Dr. R. F. Ladwig.

Telephone Industry of Greene

There was a telephone system in Greene, before there was one in Mason City, and the line was built from Greene to Mason City.

In "Butler County Press" of May 30, 1878, it tells of a telephone line built from the depot to the Round House approximately 50 rds. The depot agent was Mr. Kinsey, and he was agent for the instrument.

The next reference to a telephone was in "Butler County Press" of August 1878 where it tells of a line erected from the hotel "Central House" to the depot. Mr. Potter was proprietor of the hotel.

Bridge over Shell Rock River, Greene, Iowa
Supposed to be the longest single span bridge in Iowa

The telephone at that time was not of much commercial value. In 1896 E. W. Parno had a system of his own from his residence to his jewelry store.

Prior to March 16, 1897, Al Kime was granted a

THE GREENE RECORDER

(Formerly The Iowa Recorder)

BUTLER COUNTY'S LARGEST HOME NEWSPAPER

PRINTING & PUBLISHING

WE SPECIALIZE IN
ALL TYPES OF
JOB PRINTING

SERVICE
IS OUR
MOTTO

MOORE BUSINESS FORMS
SMITH-CORONA
BOOKKEEPING SUPPLIES

Phone 25

Greene Iowa

franchise and from March 16, 1897, of issue of "Iowa Recorder" "Al Kime has over 30 persons on his telephone exchange list and expects to go to Chicago to purchase instruments and outfits to put the exchange in working order. Work will commence right away on a telephone line to Mason City. There has been a telephone line north from Allison for some time."

Looking east on Traer Street, Greene, Iowa

On June 22, 1897, Ed Cole discovered the telephone exchange to be on fire, caused by lightning following a wire into building. Mr. Reed ordered the exchange to move out of his building, as it was considered too dangerous. It moved to rear room of Soesbe, Shepardson & Company's Bank.

After 1897 or early 1898 the exchange changed ownership a number of times, until now (1956) it is a part of United Telephone Company of Iowa.

Sacred Heart Academy

"The element of most importance in the battle of life is paramountly God." These words, uttered by a great educator, explains clearly the Catholic position in regards to education. One of the most serious problems that is discussed among educators is how to bring religion into the schools without dragging theology in with it.

Not a question of Church and State but "teach" a knowledge of God and leave the churches out. The Catholic believes that our life here is temporary and the material things of this earth be used for the greater spiritual world beyond. They have no quarrel with our public school system. They realize we must have such a system in this country. They pay taxes for its support cheerfully. They relieve the public schools of a large number of pupils. They save many millions of dollars for the public schools by educating their own children, for the sole privilege that they may teach them to know and love Jesus Christ.

That is why Sacred Heart Academy was built in Greene and in nearly all parishes of this country. It is no light burden they assume; men and women of fine education devote their time to this cause for just a mere living.

LYLE MAXSON

Supplier of Sinclair Products

For 20 Years

Phone 99 Greene, Iowa

AUTO SUPPLIES & HARDWARE
CORONADO APPLIANCES
RCA RADIO & TELEVISION
SKELGAS & SKELGAS APPLIANCES

RUSSELL MEYER

Gamble Store

Greene Iowa

T and M Cities Service

Wrecker Service

Tires — Batteries — Accessories

Gas — Service — Oils

Greene, Iowa Phone 116

Kemming Super Service

Gas, Tires, Oils, Batteries, & Accessories

Generator & Regulator Service

Front End Alignment

Phone 51 Greene,Iowa

Sacred Heart Academy was built in 1914, when Father Sheehy was pastor. It is a good substantial brick building. The graduates of the Academy have upheld the reputation of the school. The school is conducted by six sisters of the great order of St. Francis.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Greene, Iowa. Built in 1921

Catholic Church

The Catholic Church in Greene was completed in 1878. Judge Greene donated the three lots on the corner of Traer and Main Street for the church and the parish house.

In 1894 a new church was built, and in 1931 they started to remodel and in digging out the full basement under the church, the wind twisted it on the blocking and it fell in, but luckily no one was under it at the time. It was then torn down and the present church built at a cost of between forty and fifty thousand dollars. It is a beautiful brick structure, very modern and has an electric organ.

The parish house was remodeled in 1955 at a cost of around $15,000.00.

St. Peters Lutheran Church, Greene, Iowa. Remodeled 1953

Lutheran Church

It cannot be definitely established just when the first Lutheran service was held in Greene. Services in the German language were held in the Presbyterian Church,

Greene Locker Service

CUSTOM BUTCHERING, PROCESSING
Curing and Smoking
Home Freezer and Locker Service
Beef Quarters and Frozen Foods
C. S. Stewart

Phone 361 Greene, Iowa

Greene Motor Company

YOUR CHEVROLET DEALER

Phone 67

Greene Iowa

RALPH BANDFIELD

AGRICULTURAL LIMESTONE
CRUSHED ROCK
FIELD TILING
GENERAL EXCAVATING

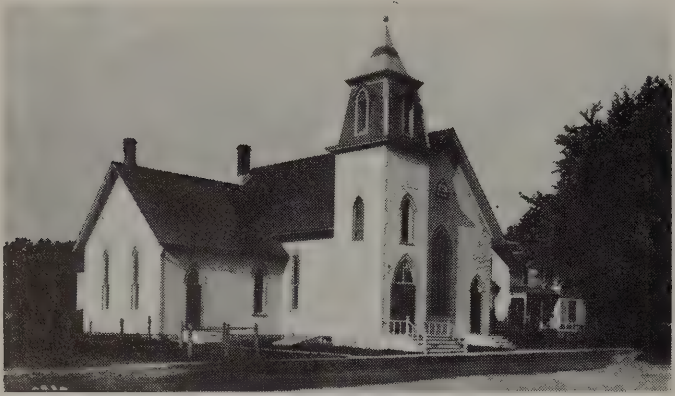
Greene Iowa

Please-U-Food Market

JACK SPRAT
& Nationally Advertised Foods
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
Choice Meats

Greene Iowa

and the Lutheran Church was organized in 1879, but the congregation was not strong enough to build a church until 1884. Rev. Shultz was the first pastor. In 1914 the old church building was torn down and a new one built, it was remodeled and enlarged and rededicated in July of 1952.



Old M. E. Church

Methodist Church of Greene

In the spring of 1853, a circuit rider, Rev. S. W. Ingham, stopped at the cabin of Mr. and Mrs. James Griffith in Coldwater township. The next day the minister preached the first sermon ever delivered in the township. In 1854, Rev. William Gough made his services available to the residents of the township. He was followed in 1855 by Rev. William Holbrock.

Meetings were held at regular intervals in the homes of the pioneers and in school houses. In the spring of 1872 Rev. Philip W. Gould formally organized the class of Greene.

The original church was built in 1878. The cost of construction was 3,000 dollars. In 1897, a wing was added to each side. In 1928 the basement and Sunday School rooms were added at a cost of 10,000 dollars.

The pastorate of Rev. A. E. Baker, now vice president of Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa, included the end of World War I and the flu epidemic, a time not to be forgotten. On three successive Thursdays double funerals for the folk of the community were held, and some one was buried every day of the week.

An event on the humorous side is related by Rev. A. E. Coe, whose appointment followed Rev. Baker. "We

MAXSON
Clothes Do Help You Win
Dry Clean Them Often
Launderer's — Dry Cleaners
Greene, Iowa

CORNER DRESS SHOP
LADIES & CHILDREN'S
Ready to Wear
Greene Iowa

Poultry & Eggs
Wapsie Chicks & Feed
FREE ROUTE SERVICE
Within 50 Mile Radius
Greene Produce Company
Fancy Farm Route Eggs
Phone Greene 121
Weekly Market — R. Hardman, Mgr.

BERT POOLEY
Dealer in
GRAIN — FEED & LIVESTOCK
GREENE — PACKARD
Congratulations to the Butler Co. Fair
on its Centennial Year
Greene Phone 40
Packard Phone 49

were through the first part of the services and I was almost ready to announce my text when several carloads of former parishioners filed in and were seated. They had come to see the Coes. I was almost stunned speechless for my sermon would be meaningless without the text, and I could not change it at the last minute. The Text I had to read was as follows: Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has come to me on a journey and I have nothing to set before him."

Christian Church

In the year 1891, those of the 'Christian' faith decided to build a church in Greene. They were few in number and held evangelistic meetings. Rev. Devel was the evangelist at the time the church was organized.

The late John Earnest was in the lumber business at the time and furnished the lumber and was overseer of the building of the church.

Before the interior was quite finished and the seats placed, Mr. Earnest died, and temporary seats were used for his funeral, the first to be held in the church.

Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church of Coldwater Township was organized in 1863, at the Hart schoolhouse with the Rev. Richard Morrill officiating. The charter members were Solomon Sturtz, Rebecca Sturtz, Henry McNabb, John Sturtz, Emmanual Leydig, Sarah C. Sturtz and John McNabb. In 1872, it was reorganized as the First Presbyterian Church of Greene. The first church building was

ALBRECHT HATCHERY

and

FEED MILL

Congratulations Butler County

On 100 Years of

Continuous Fairs

Greene Iowa

PAUL E. BEGUELIN

— CONSTRUCTION —

READY MIX

General Contractor
Steam Cured Concrete Blocks
Drain Tile and Brick
Washed Sand and Gravel
Sidewalks — Basements, etc.

Greene, Iowa Phones 340 J—340 W

McRoberts Implement Co.

- ★ McCormack Tractors & Machines
- ★ International Trucks
- ★ Kelvinator Appliances
- ★ Stoves
- ★ Washers & Dryers
- ★ Refrigerators

Greene, Iowa Phone 28

erected in 1873 near the site of the present school building. The manse was built in 1890 and the church remodeled in 1896. It was moved to its present site in 1921, and a complete basement added. The beautiful stained glass windows were added in 1911. The major improvements in latter years was the adding of a new Sunday School addition in 1955.

Brethren Church

The founder of the local denomination was Elder Philip Moss, who arrived in Coldwater township in October of 1855, from Carroll County, Indiana. The first religious services were held in his home, then in the homes of members until school house No. 1 was completed. Services were held there for a few years until the stone church was built in 1873.

The first benches were backless and placed along the walls. The men sat on the side next to the sheds so they could keep an eye on the horses, and the women sat on the benches against the opposite wall.

The church was organized in 1857 and the Sunday School was organized in 1873. The Ladies Aid Society was authorized in 1897. The Christian Workers organization is divided into three departments, adult, young people and juniors. There are other organizations in the church but these are the major ones.

Calvary Baptist

In 1939 members of the Baptist faith started to hold

Pooley Lumber Co.

JOHN DEERE QUALITY FARM
EQUIPMENT

LUMBER — PAINT — HARDWARE

Home Appliances — Heating

Plumbing — Television & Radio

Sales & Service

Phones 43 or 44 Greene, Iowa

Greene Limestone Co.

Limestone Products — Concrete Stone

Washed Sand & Gravel

Bituminous Materials & Construction

Phone 45 Greene, Iowa

WILLIAM WEIBKE & SON

BREEDERS OF SCOTCH
SHORTHORN CATTLE
and
POLAND CHINA HOGS
— Since 1917 —

Greene Iowa

meetings in private homes. The membership grew and it was soon apparent that they needed a house of worship. In 1944 the members of the congregation formally organized the Calvary Baptist Church. Lots were purchased on south Main Street and in 1945 the church building was erected.

The men of the congregation donated their time to help in the building of the church. It is 36 by 60 feet of cement block construction. The main auditorium has a seating capacity of 150. There is a full basement with furnace room, rest rooms and a modern kitchen.

Rev. Charles Segerstrom was the first pastor of the church. The first wedding performed in the church was the marriage of Darlene Baxter and Glenn Hites, and the first funeral was that of Chet Eikenberry.

Teeple Service Station

STOP — At the Sign of the
Flying Red Horse
Mobiloil — Mobilgas — Mobilubrication
Tires — Tubes and Batteries
Phone 11 Greene, Iowa

FIRST STATE BANK

Greene, Iowa

Member F. D. I. C.

Member Federal Reserve System

BUCHHOLZ & DRALLE

Department Store

Phone 56 and 300 Greene, Iowa

Interstate Power Company

GREENE — IOWA

Extends Sincere Congratulations

To The Butler County Fair

For Their

ONE HUNDRED YEARS of PROGRESS

Butler County's Only Rendering Plant

THE GREENE RENDERING COMPANY

Our Greatest Asset is Your Good Will

Greene - Phone No. 9

Allison - Phone Allan's Std. Station, 4871

FRANK C. NOEHL & GLEN A. SWALTZ, Prop.

Iowa State Licence No. 60

Jackson Township
By Geo. Wilder

Jackson township's first settler, Joseph B. Hicks, came in June, 1850. He had to carry his groceries on foot from Cedar Falls the first year, a distance of 25 miles. His house was built where the present Howard Clark home now (1956) stands.

John Heery came November 22, 1850; Seth Hilton and John Baughman soon after. Later settlers were John Stephenson, John Boyd and Ed Marquand in 1853.

Mr. Crowell, Jeremiah Perrin, Malo Taylor, Mahlon Wamsley, Thomas and Jeremiah Clark, from whom Clarksville got its name, John Mott, Elsia Doty, Wm. Tennyson, Cyrus Doty, A. E. Ensley, and Ned Russell all settled in the eastern part, just west of Clarksville. Benjamin Priest, uncle of E. E. Wilder, now of Allison, was the first to settle in the west part of the township. Soon after other settlers in that part were: Thomas Priestly, father of the late Mr. E. E. Wilder, Mark Feltus, father of Geo. Feltus of Allison, J. B. Hickman, father of Mrs Ed. Hershey, now of Dumont, S. W. Cheever, and John Klinetob, whose grandchildren still reside close around

In 1865 James Hagarty taught a winter term in a log school house in southern Dayton Township; Lovina Ryan taught the spring term there; and in June 1866, James married Lovina. They settled on his 270 acre farm in Section 4 of Jackson Township, which he bought at $1.25 per acre. He had to go to Butler Center to pay 26% interest on a note for money borrowed. He had to break the sod with oxen and horses.

At that time farms were not fenced, and loose horses from Clarksville would come out at night and raid the cornfields. Roads were not on section lines, but a well marked trail slanted northwest from Clarksville to the Coldwater (now 1956 Daugherty) settlement. Not many groves were started and bad blizzards swept the open prairies. At those times ear corn was burned for fuel. In the summer prairie fires caused fear and danger.

From an old account book kept in 1866 and 1867 by James Hagarty, these prices are noted: Hired girl, 8 days work $6.00; 22 weeks board $44.00; 1 lb butter 40c; 10 doz. eggs $1.09; ½ lb. tea $1.10; bed cord 30c; coat $5.00; marriage expenses $50.00; boots $5.00; fur cap $3.50; undershirt $1.62; ½ gal. kerosene 40c; yoke of oxen $140.00; ¼ of beef $4.00.

In the early 1870's dressed chickens were 5c a lb, dressed turkeys were 6c a lb, cattle 3 to 4 cts a lb; hogs 1 to 4 cts a lb; butter 18 to 20cts. Best grade of coffee, 3 lbs. for $1.00; flour 95c a 50 lb sack.

Of the James Hagarty family, the oldest son, Henry was ordained a priest in the Jesuit Order in 1909, and served till his death in 1923. The oldest daughter Mary, joined the Sisters of Charity in 1898 and is now stationed in Dubuque. The second son, William, with his father, established the Nursery of the Pines about 1896 in

Jackson Township. Will and his brother Tony were instigators in establishing the first Rural Mail Route in Butler County, also the first rural telephone line.

A grandson, Paul, son of Bert Hagarty, attended the Sisters Academy in Greene, Loras College in Dubuque, was ordained a priest in the Benedictine Order in Minnesota, and was Consecrated Bishop Paul Leonard Hagarty in 1950, at Nassau, the Bahamas, and is now serving as Bishop of the Islands. He is the only member of the Catholic Faith to become a Bishop from Butler County.

Other early settlers in the northern part of Jackson Township were Thomas Darby, Levi Beebe, David Beetle, William Weinberg, Lyman Downs, Daniel Waite; Charles M. Ransom, who came in 1873, having married Miss Ellen Beetle, daughter of Andrew Beetle, in 1869; George Babcock and others. Many ancesters of early settlers still reside on the old home farms and in the surrounding towns.

At one time, Mrs. George Babcock, the former Rosina Ryan, as a part time job, ran a row boat ferry at Burress Ford across the Shell Rock River southeast of what is now (1956) Packard. At times, her passengers, sometimes Indians, had to stay all night. For safety, the Babcocks slept in the attic, pulling the ladder up after them, and let the Indians sleep downstairs. Mrs. Babcock, "Aunt Rosa" died August 7, 1948, at the age of 104 years and 10 months.

The Burlington Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad was put through the township in 1871, giving all the residents a ride to Cedar Falls and back on flat cars, sitting around the edge. This was a great help to everyone as most everything had to be hauled by horse team from Cedar Falls.

The first school was a log house built in Sec. 1, and the second a frame schoolhouse built where the present Doty school now (1956) stands.

The poor were taken care of by letting them out to farmers, until the County Home was organized and opened on Feb. 15, 1877. The building burned in 1891 and the present house was built in 1892 by Vincent Franke at a cost of $3,900.00. The first Superintendent was Joseph Scofield, the second Lafe Belden, the third J. C. Hammond, and now (1956) is managed by Glen Stafford.

In 1871 a dam was built across the Shell Rock River in Sec. 12, to give power for a saw mill which operated four years and then changed over to a grist mill which was in operation a good many years under the ownership of George Moyer.

Lynwood Cemetery lies in the eastern part of the township and the first burial was that of Daniel, son of Dr. and Mrs. A. F. Tichenor, April 3, 1878. The 43 acres was bought of Louis Slimmer for $1,000.00

The first taxes of the County were: State 1¼ mills, County 5 mills, School 1 mill Now state and county combined are 20.53 mills and school 16.47 mills.

Value of personal property in township in 1874 was $62,170.00.

Pioneer Hi-Bred Corn Company

SEED
PIONEER
CORN

YEARS OF PROGRESS AND RESEARCH

By our Corn Breeding Department have brought out thousands of new Hybrids. Only a selected one or two, each year come up to these standards of the requirements for your needs.

YOU CAN DEPEND ON PIONEER
SEE YOUR LOCAL DEALER

Chris M. Juhl, Plainfield
Vern Rottler, Greene
Gus. Refshauge, Waverly
John Roalf, Allison
J. Martin Reinicke, Parkersburg
Art Rodenbeck, Bristow
Virgil Stevenson, Clarksville
Vern Stockdale, Austinville
John Stork, New Hartford
Leonard Steer, Allison

People in Jackson Township in 1860, 78; 1870, 569; 1880, 746; 1900, 811; 1910, 781; 1950, 864.

History of Unity Presbyterian Church

By Mrs. B. G. Fleshner

For some years before Unity Church came into being, Sunday School meetings were held in the four different schools in the community in which the church took its central position.

Sunday School Missionary, Mr. George Reaugh, largely responsible for this early effort, remained until a church organization was affected. Mr. Reaugh later became the husband of Rachel McGregor of the Unity community.

Shortly before the church was organized, Rev. George Graham and Mr. George Reaugh secured the services of the Rev. John Foote and his brother, William, who assisted as singer, from Fairfield, Iowa. These meetings were held in camp meeting fashion in the Jacob Hickle Grove, now the Wm. Brockway farm. As a result of these meetings prospects for a church organization were encouraging.

Consequently a meeting was held on December 4, 1894, for the purpose of organizing a church, at which meeting the Rev. S. Hall Young, from Cedar Falls, Iowa, was moderator with Rev. George Graham and Mr. George Reaugh assisting.

The organization was affected with 28 members and the following officers were elected:

Elders: J. P. Neal, Allen Hunter, H. F. Trotter.

Trustees: J. D. Stewart, G. W. McGregor, O. W. Spencer, John Leeper, Robert Wygle

Sunday School and church services continued for some time in the school houses, conducted by the Rev. George Graham, pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Clarksville, Iowa, and during the summer by C. B. Eby, then a student at McCormick Seminary.

On August 10, 1895, the congregation decided to build a church which also they did and the new house of worship was dedicated on May 10, 1896. The Rev. George Graham presided over the service of dedication. The sermon was preached by the Rev. T. S. Bailey, D.D., assisted by the Rev. D. R. Ferguson, who was at that time State Sunday School Missionary.

Following is a list of the committees which served untiringly to bring to completion the new church building:

The committee to canvass for subscriptions to the new building: Annie Stewart, George McGregory, Mrs. J. P. Neal, Janie Trotter and Robert J. Wygle.

The committee to choose location: Student C. B. Eby and H. T. Trotter. To the joy of this committee, the site for the church was donated by Mr. W. S. Spender.

The building committee consisted of the Board of Trustees. Mr. W. G. Ladd of Clarksville was secured to draw up plans for the new edifice and Mr. S. F. Conn of Shell Rock was hired as contractor.

The cost of the building was modest in the amount

Mason City

Tent & Awning Company

Manufacturers of

★ Tents ★ Awnings ★ Covers

MASON CITY

406 S. Federal Phone 822

Jubilees" — Centennials" — Sesqui-Centennials" — Festivals"

Hampton Trading Post

National Distributors of

Anniversary Novelties and Souvenirs

P.O. Box 961 Phone Gladstone 5-5291

Greenville, Texas

Our Hats Off to the Butler County Fair

on 100 Years of Progress

of $970.00 and the furniture $254.00. John Leeper was appointed to purchase lamps, carpets and organ.

O. W. Spencer was appointed to look after the building of a coal shed.

In the fall of 1896 it was decided to build stables for the horses which conveyed the people to the place of worship. At this point in Unity's building program a great sorrow befell the congregation. Mr. G. P. Husband, who had volunteered to haul lumber for the horse stables was instantly killed on his way by a train west of Shell Rock.

The first communion set was donated by Mrs. G. P. Husbanvd in memory of her deceased husband. In 1935 a new communion set was donated by Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Millard of Independence, Iowa. Mrs. C. E. Millard being a sister of Carl Polk.

Another sorrow befell the congregation when in the spring of 1920 their much loved church burned to the ground from a road fire.

Small as the congregation was at that time, 27 members in all, they decided to rebuild. Again committees were appointed.

Committee on plans and figures: Ira Copeland, Arch Forry, Ernest Hahn.

Funds committee: Charles Leeper, Ed Cadam.

Hauling of material: Bert Curtis.

General Overseer: Carl Polk.

Many whose names do not appear here, on account of incomplete records, assisted diligently until the new church was completed and dedicated on Sept. 5, 1927.

The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. D. W. Morgan assisted by Dr. E. A. Roadman of Waterloo.

The congregation having no manse was served for many years by pastors of the Clarksville Presbyterian Church. The duration of pastors for Unity was therefore determined by the congregation of the Clarksville church. Ministers who have served the church since its organization in 1894: The Reverends:

J. T. Wyllie, 1896-1899; C. H. Ticknor, Ph.D., 1899-1902; O. E. Ticknor, 1902-1905; Herbert Franch, 1906-1907; W. M. Sinclair, 1907-1915; E. A. Roadman, 1915-1917; T. S. Sherman, 1919-1920; D. W. Morgan, 1922-1926; H. R. Campbell, 1926-1930; John W. Everds, 1930-1932; D. J. Sessler, 1932-1953; F. L. Seth, 1953-1955; Kay Mills, 1956-.

In the year 1930 the congregation expressed a desire to have its own pastor, and secured the service of Rev. John W. Everds, Cedar Falls, Iowa, as stated supply.

In 1932 the Rev. D. J. Sessler came as a stated supply and served for twenty-one years. During Rev. Sessler's pastorate the church building was completely remodeled in a building project beginning in 1951 and completed in 1952.

In the spring of 1953 LaVern Seth came to Unity as a student minister. It was during his pastorate the church's mortgage was liquidated. Rev. F. LaVern Seth left Unity to become an Agricultural Missionary to Brazil in June 1955. The church has been served by student ministers until March 1, 1956, when Kay Mills a student minister was hired to serve Unity as our present minister.

In 1953 the church started a farming project which is being carried on successfully.

Within the church is an active Sunday School, Jr. and Sr. Youth Fellowship, Ladies Aid and Missionary Society combined, Mariners Club and each summer a Daily Vacation School is held.

Charter members in 1894 were: Allen Hunter, Mrs. Allen Hunter, James Trotter, Mrs. James Trotter, H. T. Trotter, Francis Trotter, Mrs. N. A. Thompson, Jane Thompson, W. C. Thompson, J. D. Stewart, Lizzie Stewart, Annie Stewart, Mrs. J. D. McGregor, Rachel McGregor, George McGregor, W. S. Spencer, Mrs. W. S. Spencer, Mrs. Mattie

The Seven-Up Bottling Co.

Also

Makers of Dodger Flavors

Waterloo, Iowa

HURLBURT HATCHERY

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Hy-Line®

Authorized Distributor

Salesmen in Butler County

Otto Thomsen — Shell Rock

Leonard Steer — Allison

Mrs. Oswald Luloff — Plainfield

John Stork — New Hartford

Vernon Stockdale — Austinville

Bohner, O. W. Spencer, Mrs. O. W. Spencer, G. P. Husband, Mrs. G. P. Husband, C. F. Hunt, Mrs. John Leeper, Mrs. T. J. Hickle, T. J. Hickle, J. P. Neal, Mrs. J. P. Neal: and Mrs. Wm. Thurber.

Two of the twenty-eight charter members are still living: George McGregor and Mrs. Wm. Thurber. George McGregor still is an active member. Today we have a membership of one hundred fifteen.

Church officers in 1956 are: Elders—Donald Turner, Herbert Wedeking, Robert Boyd, S. Leeper and John F. Hartwig.

Trustees: Lester Leeper, Bennie G. Fleshner, Thomas Tjebkes, William Bolin, Charles Modderman and Charles Bohner.

Treasurer: Mrs. B. G. Fleshner.

Pianist: Mrs. Herbert Wedeking.

Sunday School officers are: Supt., Wallace Marsh; Assistant Supt., Mrs. C. G. Mohn; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Harry Freese; Missionary Supt., Mrs. Harry Miller; Pianist, Parnell Miller.

The Ladies Aid Society was organized May 10, 1932. Present officers are: President, Mrs. Richard Marsh; Vice President, Mrs. E. Cadam; Secretary, Mrs. John Burroughs; Treasburer, Mrs. C. G. Mohn.

Madison Township and the Village of Kesley

By Miss Nettie VanLoh

Madison Township lies on the western tier of Butler County. On the west lies Franklin County and the township of Pittsford on the north, Ripley on the east, and Washington on the south. It contains an area of 23,040 acres. The surface of Madison is a rolling prairie. The soil consists of a rich, dark, loam and in places it is inclined to be sandy. The supply of water is very good. The West Fork passes through the extreme northeastern portion of the township and Maynes and Dutchman's Creek pass through the central part. The timber supply is limited being mostly confined to Bear Grove.

The settlement of Madison Township began in 1854. The first entry of land was made by Adam H. Sarber on October 2, 1854, consisting of claims in Section 1 and 2. That same year James Caldwell and Thomas Nash entered a claim in Section 20.

The first to put in an appearance for the purpose of making a permanent home was undoubtedly Nicholas Hartgraves a native of North Carolina. In 1852 he came to Butler County and stopped at Beaver Grove where he remained for two years. In 1854 he pushed his way farther westward and settled in what is now Madison Township on Section 17 near Clutterville. His wife was a native of Indiana and they had fifteen children, Delila, Clarissa, Marion, Melinda, Richard, Sinie, Henrietta, Ellen, Estella, Virgil, Ulysses died in his seventh year, the other four died in infancy. Noah Hartgraves arrived a year later and put claim on Section 18. These claims were not entered in the government office until sometime later.

Several other pioneers located in the township in 1855. Among them were Ephraim Hizenton and his son

KESLEY LOCKERS
Custom Curing and Smoking
Meat Sales
Processing and Locker Storage
AUGUST MAIFIELD
Phone 40 Kesley, Iowa

KESLEY HARDWARE
★ PLUMBING
★ HEATING
★ WIRING
★ PAINTS
★ HARDWARE
Phone 6 Kesley, Iowa

KESLEY MERCANTILE
★ GROCERIES — ★ FRESH MEATS
★ SHOES and ★ DRYGOODS
Buyers of Poultry and Eggs
Phone 16 Kesley, Iowa

F. F. LURSEN
Fire — Tornado — Hail & Auto
Insurance
Allied Mutual Pays
Kesley Phone 42 Iowa

JOHN BRUNS
Livestock Dealers
General Trucking
Kesley Phone 22 Iowa

William from Illinois. They located on sections 14 and 15. The son died of hydrophobia in 1858. The father did not prove up on his claim and lived on his son's place for a few years and then moved out of the township after his son's death.

William Mason and Fred Moffatt, natives of England, settled in the township the same year. Abijah Stacy, a native of Indiana, located in the spring of 1855. He died in the following November and his death is the first one to be recorded in the township.

Jacob Yost first settled in the township in 1857, his claim was in Section 16. He lived there a few years and then moved across the line into Ripley Township.

Peter Coyle, a native of Ireland, born in 1802. He married Mary McAnttee, and in 1847 emigrated with his family to America. He entered a machine shop in Auburn, N. Y., living in that city until 1855, when he moved to Amboy, Illinois, here he bought land and built a house. In 1858, he traded his property for land in Butler, Howard, Black Hawk and Chickasaw Counties. He was accompanied by Thomas Gallagher and wife. Mrs. Gallagher was a daughter of Mr. Coyle. They made the journey from Illinois with ox teams taking about two weeks for the trip. Peter Coyle lived on a farm in Section 10, when he moved to Ackley. He had eight children. He was the first justice of peace elected in the township. He was elected a member of the board of supervisors in 1861 and served as chairman for five years.

The distance of Madison township in early days from market prevented its rapid settlement. In the years following the Civil War the township filled up rapidly. Among the settlers were Amos E. Hartson, Samuel B. Gordon, Solomn Harvey and Walcott Watson. The Watsons are among the most prominent citizens of the township and are identified with its progress and development. Wolcott Watson came from Connecticut. When he was 21 years of age he engaged on a vessel for whaling. He spent one and a half years whaling on the Pacific ocean. For a time he was engaged in a quarry in Connecticut but in 1846 he bought land in Wisconsin and built a house. In 1867 he sold out and came to section 21, Madison township. He improved the land and built a frame house. He commenced farming by raising wheat but abandoned that and turned his attention to stock raising.

Kesley Green, for a number of years the largest land owner in the township, settled here in 1865. The village of Kesley platted on his land is named for him. In 1865 he came to Iowa from Cincinnati, Ohio, to take charge of the farm owned by the Ohio Stock Breeding Cmpany. He improved about 2,000 acres of 3,400 acres contained in the farm, which was the largest in the county. He had three hundred head of horned cattle, forty head of horses and 300 hogs. He was married in 1869 to Miss Ella Hageman. They had four children, Clara, John, Archie and Frank.

Thomas Faint a native of England, settled in Bear Grove in the early 70's. Mr. Faint had a family of four

LURSEN GROCERY — FEED STORE
Your Wayne Feed Man
Phone 17
KESLEY — IOWA

KESLEY LUMBER YARD
Arthur Dahn, Prop.
Building Material
Kesley Iowa

Van Raden Welding & Machine Shop
Machinery & Repair Parts
Kesley, Iowa Phone 23

De Berg Service Station
GAS — OILS — GREASE — TIRES
Your Business Appreciated
Kesley Iowa

KESLEY'S PRIDE
Selected
Creamery Butter
Kesley Co-op. Creamery
Phone 35 Kesley, Iowa

daughters and three sons. The daughters were prominent in education work in this and other parts of the state.

The settlement of the township was finally completed very largely by people of German nationality, who came in the late 70's and early 80's. Among them was George K. D. Kremer, who came in 1858 from Hanover, Germany, to view the country with the intention of settleing. He stopped at Ackley where he had friends. In 1870 he took a trip to San Francisco, Los Angeles and Portland. Returning to Iowa he bought land in Madison township on section 28. He married in 1871 to Miss Louisa Sonnema. They had six children, Anna, John, Sebo, Else, Henry and George.

Another native of Germany was Henry Messerschmidt who came in 1867. On landing at New York he went directly to Freeport, Ill., where he engaged in farming. In 1882 he came to Madison and bought his farm in section 15.

Among these early settlers of the 80s' may be mentioned Charles Borneman, John Rewerts, Arend and J. S. Essman, Paul J. Gerdes, Ludermann, Baumgartner, Rademacher and Stock families.

Another settler who came from France was Fred Pfaltzgraff. When 31 years of age he joined the French army and served 12 years, the last ten as musician. In 1852 he married Miss Magdalena Schnelberger, and in 1854 they left to find a home in America. He landed in New York, he later went to Rochester where he engaged in the nursery for two years then removed to Illinois and engaged in farming south of Chicago for 12 years. In 1869 he came to Madison Township and bought land in section 23 where he engaged in raising grain and stock.

Krene De Berg, a native of Germany, was the only auctioneer in the Butler and Grundy area for a number of years and used to drive with horse and buggy as far as 40 miles to cry a sale in the severest weather. He had seventeen children, eleven of whom are still living. He also was Kesley's real estate dealer and tombstone salesman. His wife was the former Katherine De Vries, whose parents lived south of Kesley. He was for years a member of the County Fair Board.

Religious

The first Catholic services was held in the township in 1865 at the house of Peter Coyle and presided over by Father Shields of Waverly.

The Methodists in 1867 held services in the school house of District No. 4. The first to officiate was Rev. Captain Williams, of Ackley who was also an auctioneer.

The Sabbath school was organized in the summer of 1867, with N. R. Carpenter as Superintendent. This school was continued for a year or more.

Educational

The first school house in the township was erected in 1860, on section 14, District No. 1. The old school house was moved away in 1870, and in 1872 a board shanty was erected, in which one or two terms of school were held. In 1873 the school house was built at the cost of $400. Miss Carpenter was the first teacher.

Island Grove Postoffice

The postoffice under the name of Island Grove was established in Madison Township in 1858 with Dr. George Sprague as postmaster, with the office at his home on section 35. It was on the mail route from Cedar Falls to Hampton, and later on the route from Aplington. It was discontinued in 1868.

Blacksmith Shop

The industrial enterprises have not been very well represented in Madison Township. Albert Schmitz purchased the pioneer school house and moved where he started a blacksmith shop, which ran for almost one year —then Schmitz engaged in mercantile business in Dumont.

Madison Cemetery

This cemetery was platted in 1873 by M. C. L. Niece, under the auspices of the Madison Cemetery Association. This association composed of the leading citizens among whom were—W. Watson, J. Baker, S. Harvey, T. W. Smith, J. Brooks, M. Harvey, J. O. Slade, J. Kalabarer, A. Schmitz, Frank Beach, P. Long, and P. Pfaltgraff. The first burial was Mrs. Jacob Kalabarer in 1881.

Ohio Stock Farm

Some years ago a stock company was formed in Ohio, under the caption of the Ohio Stock Breeding Association, the parties being John Green of Cincinnati, Judge R. W. Musgrave and Luther A. Hall of Tiffin City and Dr. George Sprague. Dr. Sprague the originator of the concern, purchased 6,000 acres of land, mostly lying in Madison Township. He came here at an early day, importing with him a splendid herd of Shorthorn cattle. The affair was not a success as the country was not far enough advanced to support such an enterprise. Sprague struggled manfully for a time, but finally gave up and the land was divided among the stock holders. He retained some and J. K. Green got about 3,700 acres. Dr. Sprague, after giving up the idea, removed to Des Moines and started the Iowa Homestead, a farm journal of wide reputation and successful paper.

The first birth in Madison Township occurred March 1, 1855, a son, Marion to Nicholas and Sophia Hartgraves.

The first marriage ceremony in Madison Township was performed in 1860 by Peter Coyle at his home and joined in marriage Elisha Scott and Miss Sally Taylor It is said the wedding party had been arranged, dinner prepared, guests invited, and everything ready for a good time. But when the time arrived a sister of the bride who was opposed to the match persuaded her not to go to the wedding. The guests and minister met at the appointed hour but there was no bride, the dinner was eaten and the party dispersed. One of the neighbors went to see the girl and persuaded her to change her mind. In the afternoon she met her affianced, and together they proceeded to Justice Coyle's, where they were made one. Nine years later she was drowned in the West Fork while attempting to cross the river at the time of high water. Her husband was with her but escaped.

The first death occurred in November 1855 and Abijah Stacy quietly passed away. He was buried at Beaver Grove without any funeral service.

Kesley

The village of Kesley was platted on Kesley Green's land and was named for him. The plat of the town of Kesley was filed for record on June 15, 1900, by W. E. Brice and auction was held by the Town Site Co., at which a sale of lots in Kesley was made. It wasn't until the construction of the Northwestern Railroad in 1900 that Kesley had any railroad facilities.

Before Kesley was organized a postoffice had been maintained for a number of years at Hitesville, several miles to the east. After the town came into being the Hitesville Postoffice was discontinued and then it was established in Kesley. The postmasters were John Bode, Henry DeVries, John Wessles, Lester Mennen and Raymond Lursen.

The opening of a lumberyard by the Reints and De Buhr who later organized the Bank of Kesley marked the beginning of the transaction of business. Bode Brothers of Austinville and F. Traisman of Aplington, immediately opened general stores. The Northern Grain Co. & the Nye-Schneider Fowler Co. built elevators along the right of way. H. El Perry, Swanton opened a blacksmith shop; Ludaman & DeVries a hardware and furniture store. J. H. Branderburg built a two-story brick hotel. The creamery was operated one and a half miles north of Kesley. Hugh Patterson succeeded James P. Johnston in the creamery business.

An independent school district was formed by Kesley and the immediate contiguous territory along about 1910. There were two departments in the school, with an attendance of about forty pupils. The school building is a two-story frame structure.

The Monroe Reformed Church had a church building in Kesley in which regular services were held. A Union Christian Endeavor Society also held meetings there.

The present elevator is owned by K. W. Brandt, Allison and managed by August Brinkman.

The lumberyard is now operated by Art Dahn who took it over after the death of his father.

A locker plant has been operated by August Maifeld for the past three years. He specializes in sausages and smoked meats.

Ben Hook manages the hardware store for the past two years.

The Butler County Telephone Company has been serving the community for a good many years. Roy Lumley has charge of it.

Leslie Van Raden has the blacksmith and welding shop.

The Kesley Savings Bank has been managed by George De Buhr and is one of the few banks in the county which didn't close during the depression years. A robbery occupied there for the sum of $57.00 some years ago.

For the past twenty-two years Ben De Berg has serviced the cars in the community at his service station.

The Kesley Co-op Creamery has been managed for several years by George H. Schipper. At the present time it buys both milk and cream.

John Bruns buys livestock while Chris Brinkman and John Lupkes operate corn shellers in the surrounding country.

In 1919 electricity was furnished by the Aplington Electrical plant.

A very modern building was built by the Amvets. The Amvets and Amvet Auxiliary are very active organizations.

Since the Aplington Community School was established the seventh and eighth grade youngsters have been transported by bus to Aplington. Kesley still maintains a grade school in a two-story building for the six lower grades.

The Presbyterian Church holds regular services every week. Rev. Robert Arends is the present pastor.

George De Vries started to manufacture tractor hitches and tractor seats and other items since 1953.

The Lursen family have a very interesting enterprise on the family farm one mile north and one mile east of Kesley. Frederick Lursen's wife's family operate a fish collecting and exporting business in Newfoundland and Labrador. In 1954 a partnership was formed by Frederick, Raymond and their father Fred which is called the Lursen Products Co. Shipments of headless and cleaned herring packed in a salt brine begin to come into Kesley in carload lots from Newfoundland. These are processed and placed in 1, 2, 4 and 9-pound jars using their secret recipe for pickled herrings which are sold in Iowa and surrounding states.

History of Parkersburg and Albion Township in Which Parkersburg is Located

By Helen Kemmerer Lang

The land upon which Parkersburg stands was purchased from the government by an eastern speculator in 1854. John Connell and son William purchased this land which was about 240 acres. This site was formerly covered with a rank and heavy growth of brush and was called by some of the early pioneers, "Brush Bed of the Beaver."

Parkersburg is located in the southern part of Albion township in the Beaver Valley. Albion township was known to be one of the best townships in Butler County. Parkersburg also extends into Monroe township. It is at the confluence of the north and south forks of the Beaver. Parkersburg is situated upon a division of the Illinois Central and Northwestern Railroads.

Walter Clayton from Wisconsin was the first to erect a permanent home here in the spring of 1853. Next on record was Abel Turner from England.

Other pioneer landowners coming in 1853 included J. J. Bicknell, George Greene, W. S. Peck, W. J. Barney and Thomas Mullarky.

The next settlement was made in June 1854, when

Jacob Kemmerer, George Younker, and W. F. Younker came and took up claims.

It was at the location of the Kemmerer and Younker farms that the people fleeing the Spirit Lake Indian Massacre stopped and stayed eleven days until the Indians quieted down. It was reported the Indians ate up all the available food in the neighborhood.

Joseph and Matilda Codner, Lyman Card, and Richard Daniels located here in 1854.

Some of the pioneers coming in 1854 were: P. P. Parker, Jacob Hall, Charles W. McEwen, Joseph Codner, August Coon, Isaac Waters and Jacob Brown.

Later settlers included Moses J. Conn, Nathaniel Chesley, John Parker, Marshall Kelley, Asa Overacker, E. N. Babcock, Mrs. Anna Jaquis, Solomon Lashbrook, William Waters, Peter Riley, Lorenzo Perry, Adam Leffler, Edward Dawson and Elijah Brown. Daniel Downey was another prominent settler who eventually became one of the largest landowners in the township. C. A. Wolf was another large landowner.

From 1855 on, settlement in the township was very rapid. It would be impossible to make mention of the various settlers who located here at that time. Large numbers of families of German nationality settled on farms in the township. In the later years there were: Harm and Oppe Van Hauen, L. F. Hersey, the Reints and DeVries families, the Tanners and Lurhoffs.

William Hersey purchased 600 acres of land from the government located north of town where Fred Junker lives.

Our postoffice was instituted in August 1855, by the department at Washington, through the influence of P. P. Parker, who had settled on section 31 of Albion in 1854. He sent in the application recommending that the name be Albion as that was the name of the township; but he was notified by the department that here was already one postoffice in Iowa named Albion and Parkersburg would be the name of this office in honor of Mr. Parker who was to be the first postmaster.

The postoffice at Parkersburg was the first established in this part of Butler County and for the first few years of its existence probably supplied a larger area of country with mail than any other.

The first mail was carried through from Cedar Falls to Fort Dodge in the old-fashioned saddle bags on horseback. The mail consisted of about a half dozen pieces. In a short time the stage coach route was established and it stopped at Mr. Parker's door. He lived where Pete Kruse does now. It was called "the half-way house" because it was half-way from Grundy Center to Butler Center.

After retaining the postmaster's job for several years Parker resigned. Stephen Morse was postmaster for about 6 months when Thomas Russel took charge. This was not a convenient arrangement so P. P. Parker again took over as postmaster. This arrangement remained until the village of Parkersburg was platted and the first train of cars had run up to the depot. At this time in

HOOKS BODY & FENDER
REPAIR SHOP

on Hi-Way 20 - 14

Parkersburg Iowa

SIMON BROS.
SUPER SERVICE STATION

on Hi-Way 20 - 14

Parkersburg Iowa

Congratulations Butler County
on
Your Centennial Fair

Carrie & Polly's Cafe

Ronald and Pauline Stickley Prop's.
Sunday Dinners our Specialty
Parkersburg Iowa

Renken Implement Co.

Dealers in
NEW FARM MACHINERY
PARTS and REPAIRS

Electric Welding
Dial 3731

Parkersburg Iowa

Parkersburg State Bank

Parkersburg, Iowa

O. A. Bailey President

Member of F. D. I. C.

Office Bank at New Hartford, Iowa

1865 Mr. Parker had the postoffice moved to the store of Joseph Dimmick who was the depot agent who became postmaster. Later P. P. Parker's son James became postmaster. At that time the postoffice was in the same building as the Beaver Valley Bank on Main Street.

The first sign of life in a business point of view commenced about the time Jake Young and Frank Shaffer put up what was called the "Eagle House." It was north of the railroad tracks. In those days there were many houses along the Beaver. In 1900 the Northwestern Railroad came through and many were forced to move.

Thomas Williams erected what was called the "Williams House." Later it was known as the "Commercial House." It later became the property of Robert Norris and was run by O. W. Cooley. Harry Taylor took over and remodeled, putting on a porch around the north and west that was removed several years ago when it was taken over by a group of business men and remodeled.

The hotel was very popular. If you were anyone you stayed there. It would have cost you $4.50 per week for room and board. Sunday dinners including ice cream and pie were 50c.

While R. T. Jacobson was erecting a store building he did business in one of the hotel rooms.

John Beemer was the first to represent the law profession here. He came in 1869. Attorney N. T. Johnson married Charlie Wolf's sister. They lived in the Charles Reid home. Later O. B. Courtright, M. F. Edwards, W. T. Evans, Vern Gregory, John Behnke, Richard Mulder and Dale Van Eman took over.

The medical profession was represented by Drs. I. W. Powers and Joe Powers, Ensign,Lobdell, Parker, Jaynes, Cantomwine, Strout, Kaufmen, Hobson, Noble, Lewis, Bruechert, Macey, Mooney and Rolfs.

Renken and Rammen established their general merchandise business in 1878. They completed a fine brick building on Main Street in 1882 at a cost of $4500. The building still stands and houses Walkie Cleaning establishment.

D. W. Schoolcroft was a very prominent citizen in the early days of Parkersburg. He did much to build up and advance the interests of this town. He came here in 1869 and was interested in the produce business, grocery trade, livestock business places, and built what is known as the Schoolcroft block in the fall of 1870 at a cost of $2500.00. His wife was Fannie Harvenstein. The Hoogestraat home was the former Schoolcroft home.

A flour mill was erected in Parkersburg in 1879 by E. Hiller. In 1881 it was sold to J. R. Russell. The mill was propelled by a good water power obtained from the Beaver River. It had a capacity of 75 barrels per day. Later Will Mead took it over and built a new building. Mr. Mead operated the mill for a good many years selling to Ed. Kothe. Later it was sold to Robert Reid, then to Johnston and Drueger. B. G. Johnston is the present owner and operator.

L. P. Christopher started a bakery in 1885 about where Hammer's Dry Cleaning is located. This building

WAYNE'S MOBIL SERVICE

Dial 4631

Parkersburg **Iowa**

COOK'S D-X STATION

Parkersburg **Iowa**

Arends Manufacturing Co

Manufacturers of Farm Equipment

Loaders and Snow Scoops

Dial 2181

Parkersburg **Iowa**

Schuck's Real Estate

Confidential Farm Loans

Office Phone 5451

Parkersburg, Iowa

Congratulations Butler County on

Your 100 Years of Continuous Fairs

Claude D. Schuck Jack D. Schuck

burned so he built what was the Harry Knock building that is now the north part of Trey's store. In 1900 Mr. Christopher built the building now occupied by Anderson Hardware, where they ran a hotel and eating place. After Mr. Christopher's death in 1917 Mrs. Christopher continued to run the business. There are some who think she baked enough pies to reach from here to New York City.

Big Business—1865

The first Illinois Central depot was completed in 1865 and Joseph Demmick served as the first agent for the railroad. When he was commissioned postmaster, he erected a frame building across the track from the depot and put in a small stock of goods, kept a meat market, sold paints, etc., at the same time he bought grain, attended to his duties as depot agent and was postmaster. It sounds as if Demmick had a really strenuous time of it, but Parkersburg was young in those days, mail was received at infrequent intervals, money was scarce while the Civil War was on and the country new. Our present agent, Mr. Rogers or postmaster, Mr. Nicklaus has more duties to perform in one day than Mr. Demmick had in one week—even with all his various lines of business.

First Things

The first cemetery was located one mile east of Parkersburg, north of Henry Behrends and south of Kitty Denison's farm.

The first marriage took place on January 7, 1856. P. P. Parker married Miss Martha McEwen. The ceremony was performed at the home of Adna Thomas by Rev. Samuel Wright. Abel Turner and Harriett Waters were united in marriage in 1857 by Rev. John Connell.

The first school taught in the township was by John Bicknell in 1855-6.

P. P. Parker was authorized on March 2, 1857 to call the first election which was held at the house of Stephen Morse, a little over one mile east of Parkersburg. The first officers elected were: Stephen Morse and Jesse Owen, justices of the peace; J. L. Kemmerer, E. H. Babcock and Asa Overacker, trustees; P. P. Parker, clerk; Joseph Codner, constable; Abel Turner, assessor.

First death was that of a daughter of Mr. and Mrs Wilmont Wilbur, July 1854.

The first religious services in the township were held by Rev. Mr. Burleigh at the home of W. F. Younker in December 1854.

The first birth occurred in August 1854, when twins were born to Augustus and Catherine Coon.

At the time Sylvanus H. Taylor, a settler of 1857 from New York purchased 146 acres of which 40 acres laid within the corporation, the correct spelling for this town was "Parkersburgh."

The first Main Street ran east and west, just south of the Illinois Central railroad tracks.

The first town election was held in the spring of 1875. C. S. Lobdell was the first mayor.

PARKERSBURG MOTORS

Bill Scheel, Owner
FORD SALES & SERVICE

Congratulations to the Butler Co. Fair
on its Centennial Year

Parkersburg, Iowa Phone 4621

Knock's Lumber Company

Parkersburg, Iowa
Dial 4552

Congratulations

Markley Knock Andy Knock

DR. M. L. SIPE

VETERINARIAN

Office Phone 4751
Residence Phone 4753

Parkersburg Iowa

PAUL'S APPAREL

CLOTHING AND SHOES
for the
ENTIRE FAMILY

Parkersburg, Iowa Dial 5251

Benjamin Needham built the first store building and was the first merchant in Parkersburg.

Gibbs Brothers opened the first bank here in 1868.

James Parker established the first hardware store in 1866.

Charles Gleason opened the first shoe store in 1865.

Henry Franke was our first harness maker in 1867. Val Lohr was employed there.

Babcock furniture store was the first in Parkersburg.

Charles Dunham opened the first blacksmith shop in the 60's.

Charles Reynolds was the first person to engage in the livery business, opening a stable near the Eagle House in 1867. Later it was run by Maxwell and Downs. T. J. Burt opened a large stable in 1869 which he ran for 13 years. It was located where the Standard Oil tanks are. Later Otis Baker and Williams and Daily ran it. Walt Conn and Del Spencer had a livery stable where Drs. Watson's dental office is now. Later it was used as a Ford Garage while Kemmerer and McDowell built the present garage building across the street. Later it was used for a skating rink and dance hall.

Of the medical profession Dr. M. I. Powers was the first to establish an office here.

Charles Charnack and Mr. Howenstein started the first lumber yard in Parkersburg.

Banking Firms

The first bank was opened by Gibbs Brothers in 1868. Sold later to J. B. and M. J. Powers. Later it was purchased by Wolf and Son.

The Beaver Valley Bank was opened in 1876 by Parker and Richards.

The Farmers and Merchants Bank was located in the center section of the Trey building. Mr. Merline and Albert Smith ran it.

The First National was run by Carl and Ed Frank. Dick Luderman was cashier.

In 1914 the Beaver Valley Bank was remodeled so John Strickland moved to the office he still occupies in the Star Corner building.

There were four banks here in 1911.

Entertainment in 1873

Sunday amusement for the young people of Parkersburg was walking the railroad bridge sand counting the ties. The young ladies would walk arm in arm to the depot to watch the passenger trains come in.

Singing schools, spelling bees, playing hard ball and visiting neighbors, were the chief forms of entertainment in the early days of Parkersburg. Of course all of this was after the work was done.

Market of 1872

Wheat No. 2, 90c; Flour $3.50; Hogs, $3.25; Eggs, 10c; Potatoes, 25c; Barley No. 2, 49c; Oats, 15c; Corn, 18c; Lard 09c; Potatoes 25c.

Mr. Mott manufactured brick where Dr. Rolf lives now. The old kiln can still be seen there. The brick was used in building many of our downtown buildings.

In 1881 we were thinking how nice it would be to

PALMER'S BY-LO

FANCY GROCERIES

Meats — Vegetables — Fruit

Parkersburg, Iowa Phone 3621

VAN EMAN & MOLDER

Attorneys at Law

Phone 4421

Dale R. Van Eman R. H. Mulder

Parkersburg Iowa

FRED VAN TASSEL

Guaranteed

Watch, Clock & Jewelry Repair

Diamonds

Watches

Jewelry

Parkersburg, Iowa

Coast to Coast Stores

Locally Owned Nationally Organized

Phone 3251

Howard Knudson Parkerburg, Iowa

have a telephone line to Allison.

The bakeries Parkersburg has had have been run by H. L. Perkins, Dickens Christopher, Smit and Hopkins. In the fall of 1955 Virgil Martin and wife opened a bakery about in the location of our first bakery run by Mr. Christopher.

Some of our early barbers were: Mr. Franklin, Marion Krosther, Henry Kephart, Fred Church. Present barbers are Robert Siberla, Folkert Alberts, Art Collings and Harry Church.

During the holidays of 1913-14 Parkersburg installed a series of five-globe electroliers, fourteen in number. The lamps were placed and paid for by the merchants. The electric power was furnished by the Parkersburg Electric Light & Power Company, composed of local capitalists who built a plant in 1898 at a cost of $10,000.00. The chief promotor of this industry was W. S. Meade. We now get our electric power from Iowa Public Service of Waterloo.

The Cemetery Association was formed April 26, 1904 by 13 ladies who met at Mrs. Will Mead's home. Dues were $1.00 and were used to beautify the Oak Hill Cemetery with the permission from the city council. Mrs. Mead was president for eleven years. First board of directors_: Mrs. Mead, Schrack, Kitsmiller, Kelly and Essie Parker.

Mr. Gleason was the first caretaker at the cemetery at $35.00 per month. Later Joe Knott took over the caretaker's duties. He lived where Bud Buss does.

Mr. Will Mead put down a well at the cemetery and a tank all free of charge.

During Jim Spains last term as Mayor, the association started perpetual care. The association turned over to the city over $7000.00 they had in their fund.

Memorial Day was a big event in those days. The ladies of the Woman's Relief Corps always covered crosses with fresh flowers for the children of the community to be placed on the soldier's graves. There was always a patriotic program outdoors at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Volume No. 1 of the Parkersburg Eclipse was published Friday, August 30, 1872 by C. D. Awyer and S. T. Edwards.

In '76 Frank Dodge and E. E. Savage purchased the paper. Savage sold his interest to Frank Dodge in 1877.

E. E. Schrack and E. W. Wright purchased the paper in 1887. This partnership was dissolved in 1893 and Schrack was the sole owner until 1924 when R. S. Sherwood bought it. He sold to C. E. Johnson in 1932.

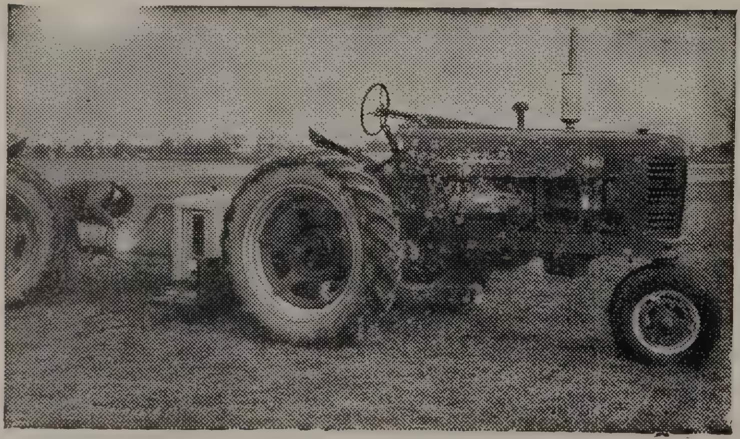
Dan Ryan purchased the Eclipse in 1935 and has continued publishing it ever since.

Dr. Jaynes had a two-story office building on the corner used as a hospital and now occupied by the Standard Service Station.

Attorney Evans had a small one-story office building between the Standard Station and what is now our City Hall.

Interesting Side Glances

There was quite a ravine that ran down through



Heine Implement Company

★ REFRIGERATORS
★ Farm Equipment & Supplies
★ Complete Line of International Quality Machinery
★ Farmall Tractors
★ McCormack Tractors

Parkersburg, Iowa Phone 3331

FROEMMING

Jewelry & Gifts

Congratulations

Parkersburg, Iowa Phone 5301

Parkersburg
Produce & Hatchery

Poultry Service — Culling Poultry
Eggs, Feed, Remedies, Quality Chicks

Parkersburg, Iowa Dial 4311

what is now the Ford garage continuing on northwest where the Creamery is now.

Muller and Ludeman had a Ford Agency where the theatre is now.

John Krull ran a blacksmith shop for years on the location of Harley Mulder's Feed Store.

Hoffman and Kaford had a wood-working shop and wagon repair at the location of Mulder's Feed Store but later moved across the street into the building now used by Formick.

Mr. Elmer Betz and Elmberg had a grocery store in the building now occupied by Palmer's Market. Later they started a factory on the site of Howard Ellinger's Plymouth Garage. They made toys and furniture. William Sleuter that did own and live where John Schoenemans do now, had an attachment for the front of a Ford car that they manufactured. They also made cement mixers. Several are still in use in this community.

Amusing Incidents

On January 18, 1881, the engineer on the Illinois Central freight running west Saturday morning, got off his engine between here and New Hartford to shoot some quail and accidently fired a charge into his hand making some surgical work for Drs. Strout and Parker. His train was held here until another engineer arrived to run it.

Mush and Milk Festival was held at the Methodist Church. A cake was given the one guessing nearest its correct weight.

September 22, 1881, the Illinois Central ran an excursion to LeMars, Iowa, leaving Parkersburg at 1:30. Round trip ticket sold for $6.30. Stop over privileges were granted to all points west including Storm Lake. This was indeed a rare chance to see and visit western Iowa.

Remember???

In the early days there was a horserace track where our ball diamond is now. Parkersburg used to be a "horsey community."

On September 8, 1881, there was a meeting of the Archery Club at Dr. Strouts. Practice was held on the lawn. Miss Lizzie Fisher carried off the badge after a spirited contest.

For many years preceding 1925 the residents of Parkersburg enjoyed Chautauqua. The tent usually was put up on the school house grounds.

The Opera House was upstairs over Harry Juel's and Ray's Drug store. It was over Whal Hardware and the north half of the Parkersburg State Bank. Stock companies would bring plays, the Catholics held an annual fair there; there were dances and home talent plays. The cemetery association put on "Union Depot for a Day" to raise money.

Miss Blanche Homan was crowned Queen of the Girl's Tennis Tournament in August 1939, when she vanquished her opponent Bethel Levy.

Paul Stewart went into the semi-finals by his victory over Louie Dreyer.

Parkersburg Lockers

F. E. McLean, Owner

Congratulations

Parkersburg, Iowa — Dial 2083

UPTOWN CAFE

Luella Acker

Place of Good Home Cooked Food

Your Business Appreciated

Parkersburg — Iowa

Parkersburg Creamery

Distributors of

Carnation Grade "A" Dairy Products

Home of Parkersburg Ice Cream

Phone 2011 — Parkersburg, Iowa

The Parkersburg Eclipse

The Only Audit Bureau of Circulation

in Butler County

YOUR PRINTER SINCE 1872

Growing Pains

Since the year 1894 Parkersburg has enjoyed the blessings of a good and efficient water works system. The contract for the well was let December 20, 1893, to Naggle Bros. of Bristow at $1.50 per foot. Sixty-two years later it is interesting to note we paid $14.90 per foot!

The first water tower stood on the southeast corner of the school yard and had a capacity of 40,000 gallons.

A power house and 2½ miles of mains made the cost amount to about ten thousand dollars.

A sewerage system was inaugurated in 1908. Over three miles of mains and laterals were laid and the cost up to 1914 was about fifteen thousand dollars. Our sewerage disposal plant was built in 1935.

The Bell Telephone Company installed dial telephones in Parkersburg just before World War II.

In 1954 we widened our Main Street and installed the latest type of Mercury vapor street lights. Our Main Street is now a one-way street.

Illinois Central Railroad

No single factor had contributed more to Iowa's remarkable transportation than the railway development and no railroad played more prominent part in the economic upbuilding of Iowa than the Illinois Central system. In 1861 the railroad was opened to Waterloo.

The Civil War ended in April 1865 and shortly thereafter construction was resumed on the line westward from Cedar Falls. The road was completed to Parkersburg June 26, 1865.

On June 27, 1929, fire destroyed our depot. A freight car was used until the one being used now was built in 1932.

Upton Werner was a brakeman on the railroad and lived where the creamery is now.

Churches in Parkersburg

The Pioneer Methodist preacher held services as early as 1851 or 1852 in log cabins of Methodist families. The first services were conducted by Rev. Elyah Kendall in the fall of 1854. Rev. John Connell was the first regular preacher. The first church was built in 1870 at a cost of $3,000. It was known as the "Little White Church on the Hill." In 1875 a small frame parsonage was built at a cost of $400.00. In 1894 this parsonage was sold and a new one built at a cost of about $2000.00.

The present church was built in 1905. Rev. Norton was pastor. The first library was located in the north side—now the Masonic Temple.

The present minister is W. A. Gillett.

Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.; Church School, 10:30 a.m.

Followers of the Catholic faith held meetings at the residence of Daniel Downey about the year 1861. The first pastor was Rev. John Shields. During Rev. Smith's pastorate in the summer of 1877 the church was built at a cost of $1300.00.

The present minister is Rev. Father Ruhland.

Sunday Mass, 8:15 a.m.; Daily Mass, 7:00 a.m.

Anderson's Skelly Service

Vern Anderson, Lessee

Congratulations to the Butler Co. Fair

Dial 4611 Parkersburg, Iowa

Parkersburg Feed Mill
and
JOHNSTON ELEVATOR

Feed — Seed, Grain, Fertilizer — Coal
CONGRATULATIONS

Parkersburg Dial 4431 Iowa

ANDERSON HARDWARE

The Home of Brand Name Merchandise

Phone 4561 Parkersburg, Iowa

Dreyer Drug Company

Rexall Store

Parkersburg Iowa

The Christian Reformed Church was organized in 1891. The first members met in their homes and for some time held services in the Methodist Church. In 1893 a house of worship was erected.

The present minister is E. H. Oostendorp.

The Congregational Church was organized by Rev. J. N. Williams in 1869. The first services were held at the Illinois Central depot. The church was built in 1879 at a cost of $3500.00. The Sunday School was organized in 1869. This church was located where the McLean Locker Plant is now. It was called "the Church in the Slu." It burned down. The present church edifice was built in 1917.

The present minister is Rev. Paul W. Bennehoff.

The Bethel Lutheran Church started in 1890. Northwest of Parkersburg was the Mother Church of Salem Lutheran Church southwest of town. This church was moved into town in 1919 to the location of the Carl Heyenga home.

In 1936 this church was sold and a fine new 30 x 50 ft. church was completed in just ninety days. This church and the parsonage built in 1940 was under the pastorate of Rev. Geske.

Due to the tremendous growth of the congregation it became necessary to erect a larger edifice so the present stone church was dedicated November 6, 1949 under the pastorate of Rev. John Reents.

On the 27th day of April, 1895, the Baptist Church was organized at the home of one of the charter members. Meetings were first held at the school house and in the English Baptist Church. In 1901 a church building was erected at a cost of $400.00. About two years later a parsonage was built. Rev. E. G. Janssen was the first minister. He served the church from 1895 to 1900. Rev. G. Engelman was here from 1900 to 1903.

On the last Sunday January 1932, the church burned to the ground. It had just been remodeled. Under the able leadership of Rev. A. G. Lang a new church was built and dedicated July 24, 1932. This church was located on highways 20 and 14.

In 1949 due to the increased membership the church was moved to its present location one block east of the school. It was remodeled and added on to with a large parking lot to the west. The dedication service was held in December 1949.

The present minister is Rev. R. C. MacCormack.

The very first "Little Red School House" stood just west of Hobson's Garage on the water tower property. After the school was built in 1872 it was used to store the fire fighting equipment. The second story was used as a city hall.

Parkersburg became an independent school district in the spring of 1871. A new school was built in 1872 at a cost of over $3,000.00. This building disappeared in flames in 1893 and the following year a modern 3-story brick structure costing $16,000.00 was built.

The new auditorium and gymnasium was dedicated April 10, 1930. Godfrey Messer was superintendent.

Schuck's Variety Store

Trade at Schucks and Save the Difference

Parkersburg **Iowa**

WM. T. HUISMAN

Auctioneer

Member of the State & National Auctioneer Association

POSTED Acquainted RELIABLE

Phone 3871 **Parkersburg, Iowa**

Smith Electric & T.V.

Sales & Service

T. V. — RADIO — APPLIANCES

Electric Motors & Electrical Contracting

Phone 2141 Parkersburg, Iowa

Sinclair Grain Company

NORRIS BROTHERS

We Buy and Sell Grain and Feed

Our Customers are our Salesmen

Dial 2806 Parkersburg, Iowa

Imke Poldeboer was school janitor from 1895 to about 1935. He never failed to hold up ringing the tardy bell until he was sure all were in their seats.

On March 12, 1956 Parkersburg voted a bond issue of $336,000.00 for the building of a new grade school.

The first graduation exercises were held in 1893. Those graduating were: Agatha Chystie, Los Angeles; Ernest Franklin, formerly of Traer, now deceased; Luta Lohr Dotty, Waterloo; Carrie Smith, Chicago, deceased; Fannie Waters Stewart, deceased; Jessie Wilson Horn, Waterloo, deceased. C. A. Fullerton was superintendent. He organized the course of study here.

In May 1868 a dispensation was granted to seven members of the Masonic fraternity and the first formal meeting of Compass Lodge No. 239 was held in the hall above Ann and Jerry's Grocery. In October 1913 they moved to the J. B. Brown building above Palmer's Market. The present hall in the north part of the Methodist Church was purchased in 1939.

The ladies of Parkersburg met at the Masonic Temple above Ann and Jerry's Market May 18, 1894, to institute an Eastern Star Chapter. A charter was granted to Compass Chapter No. 159 with 23 charter members. Mrs. John Scherling was the first Worthy Matron and Dr. Strout the first Worthy Patron.

The first installation was held May 23, 1894. It was interesting to note the chapter paid $6.00 per month rent for the hall. Mrs. Charlie Wolf was appointed Grand Master in 1906. Roy Patterson was first Associate Patron in 1931. The chapter moved to the present Masonic Temple located in the north part of the Methodist Church, January 8, 1940.

Royal Neighbors of America, Oakdale Camp No. 1578 was instituted in Parkersburg April 26, 1899. There were 21 charter members with Emma Ferguson and Mary Hamilton still members. Meetings were held in the hall over Schuck's Variety store. The camp was especially efficient with their drill team. Mrs. Luella Schrack was captain of the drill team. The Juvenile Camp No. 1578 Charter was granted March 10, 1924, with Mrs. Emma Levy Juvenile Director.

The Legion Auxiliary Post was first organized February 4, 1921 but disbanded shortly after. A second try was made in 1922 which proved unsuccessful. Again on November 2, 1927, the Auxiliary organized and is today a very strong organization. Regular meetings are held in the Legion Hall.

On Nov. 16, 1915 a number of Parkersburg women met with Mrs. Louis Sherling to discuss forming a Domestic Science Club. This club was the nucleous for the present Woman's Club. In 1917 this Home Economics Club joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Odd Fellows Lodge No. 258 was organized in 1873. It is now disbanded.

John Broden Post No. 242, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized October 30, 1883. It is no longer active.

December 2, 1884, the Woman's Relief Corps No.

CHARLES C. FISHEL

OUR HATS OFF TO THE

BUTLER COUNTY FAIR

ON ITS

100TH ANNIVERSARY

Allison Iowa

Faber's Insurance Agency

Where Insurance is a Business

Not a Sideline

Phone

Residence 2691

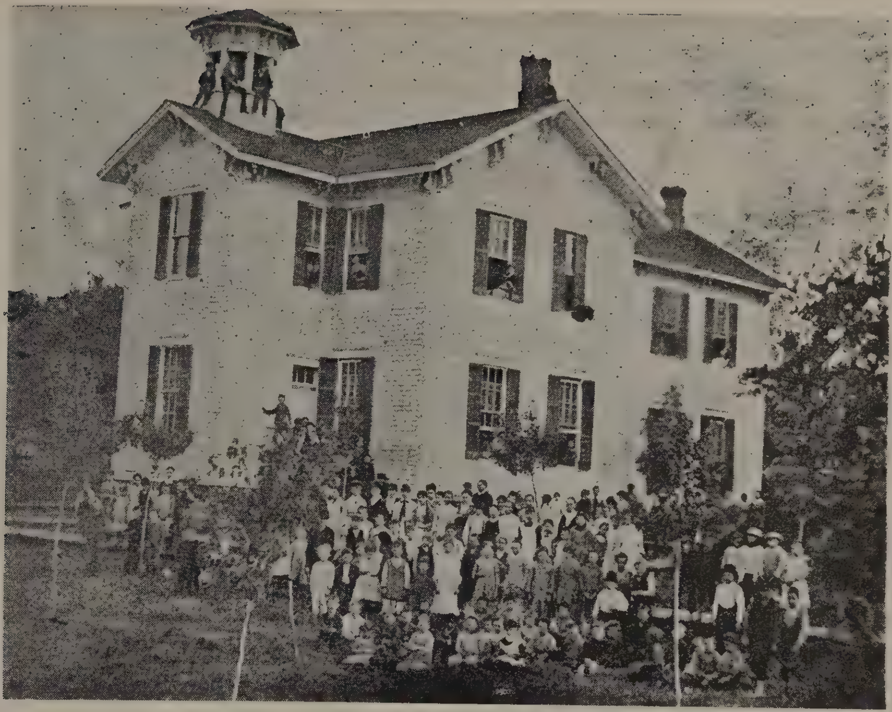
Office 3601

Congratulations to the Butler Co. Fair

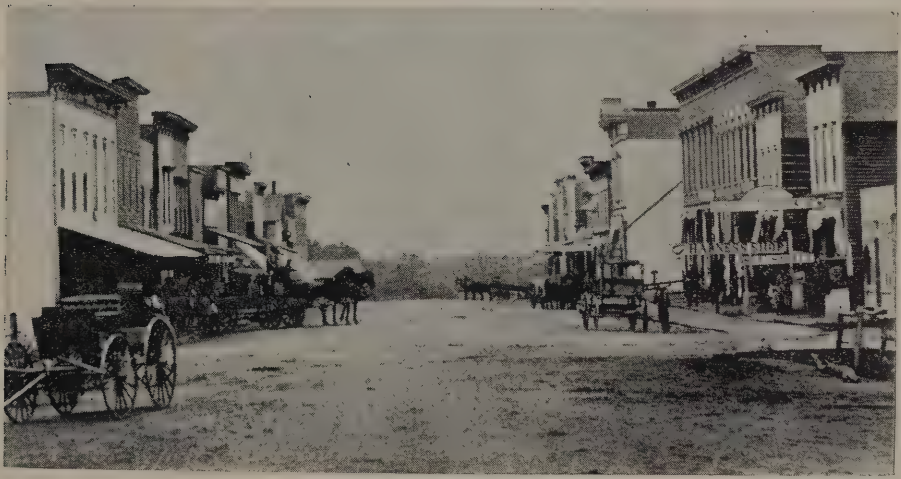
on its

Centennial Year

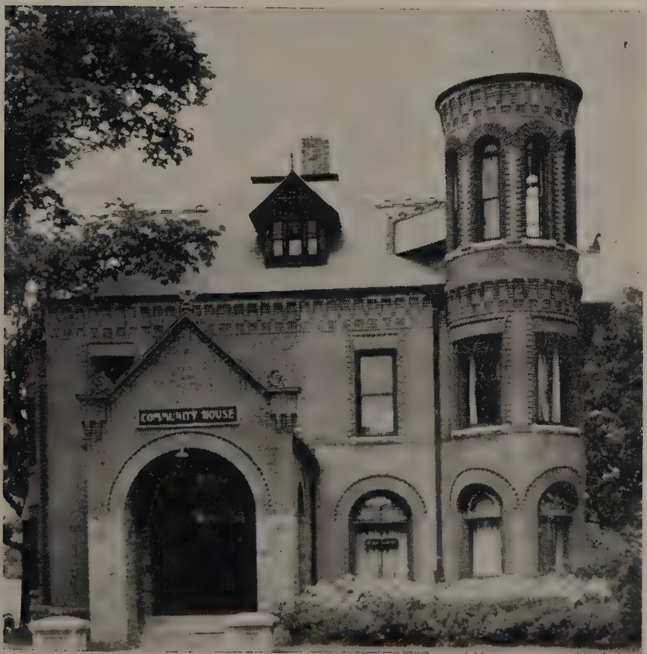
Parkersburg Iowa



Parkersburg School in 1872 built at a cost of $3000.00



Parkersburg Main Street 1882



Chas. Wolf Residence.
Now it is our Community House and Public Library.

14, Auxiliary of the John Braden Post No. 242, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized. It was the only patriotic organization in Parkersburg until after World War I. One of our esteemed citizens, Mrs. Elizabeth Kothe is Past National President of the Woman's Relief Corp.

The American Legion held its first meeting November 25, 1919. Later it was named Harry Peters Post No. 285 in honor of Harry Peters being the first veteran of World War I to pass on after serving his country well. There were 15 charter members. Meetings were held in the Woodman Hall, Thole Cramer's building and Community House. In 1945 they purchased the State Exchange Bank building which they still have.

A group of young women met in the Dale Van Eman home in 1939 to organize a club named the "Town and Country Club." It was sponsored by the Woman's Club of Parkersburg and was federated the same year. This club enjoys a nice membership and holds regular meetings in the homes of its members.

The worst catastrophe that happened to Parkersburg was in the fall of 1893 when most of the business district burned down. The big fire seemed to be an incentive for the businessmen of Parkersburg to build modern business places. Parkersburg was really on the boom! Even in 1893 that strong spirit dominated as it does yet today making Parkersburg the best business town in Butler County.

Waterloo had a fire engine they called "The Jenny Juel" they sent up by rails to help fight the big fire. Water was obtained from the Beaver.

The Parkersburg Public Library was moved in the fall of 1931 from the Methodist Church to its present location on the first floor of our Community House. We are very proud of our Library with its 6000 plus books. It is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Mrs. Louis Chamberlain is the present librarian. Others were: Floy Werner, Etta Taylor, Luella Merlin and Emma Betz.

In 1929 Parkersburg took over the Community House. Mr. and Mrs. Gus Pfeiffer, formerly of Parkersburg, now living in New York, donated money to the city to buy from the School Board the Wolf property. Four years ago picnic tables were placed in the yard, a fire place was built in 1954. There are also two tennis courts. During the summers, playground supervisors have been on hand to keep the youngsters busy.

Parkersburg paved their street in 1920.

Beaver Meadows State Park lies on the north edge of Parkersburg on the banks of the Beaver Creek. It was born in the year 1934 when a group of men met to consider ways and means of getting control of the piece of land known as Beaver Meadows. The committee consisted of G. W. Kemmerer, Harry Juel, Ed Kothe, E. L. Wilson, Dr. Chamberlain, O. A. Bailey and A. J. Froning. The money to buy the land was raised in just twenty-four hours. This committee worked with the State Conservation Commission and in April 1936, a crew of 20 men arrived and construction on the WPA Camp started. At one time during 1936 there were as high as 221 men enrolled. The WPA furnished all supplies and materials and took care of the payroll. This was the largest WPA Camp in Iowa. They built the dam, shelter house and latrine. Many are the happy hours Parkersburg people as well as many outsiders have spent there picnicing, boating, fishing and swimming.

In 1954 a group of local men succeeded in having the State Conservation Commission turn it over to them for a golf course which is at the present time under construction.

Parkersburg has always been interested and very active in all forms of sports. As the present time we have a lighted ball park at the north edge of town where our team, playing in the Butler County League, play their games. Many will remember the old ball diamond across from Simon's Service Station on Highway 20 at the southeast edge of town.

We also have a very active Fish & Gun Club north of town where shoots are held weekly during suitable weather.

Ready mixed foods, heated houses in winter and cooled in summer, modern furnishing and labor saving devices, interiors light as day, travel by air, the automobile and hard surface roads makes the conditions of a comparatively few years seem almost impossible.

What will the next century bring? What will the historians have to tell about us? Will the people of 2056 look back to this age with wonderment that we went

Kyhl -- Chevrolet - Buick

We Sell The Best

and

Service The Rest

Our Hats off to the Butler County Fair

on its

100th Anniversary

Parkersburg **Iowa**

without so much and got along with so little? Will they be any happier or more content than we are today.

History of Albion Township

Albion is one of the best townships of Butler County, lying in the southern tier. It is a full congressional township of about 23,040 acres and embraces the territory technically known as township 90, range 16. At the March term of the county court in 1857 a petition by Nathan Olmstead and other citizens of Beaver township, this township was divided and the township of Albion formed from its western half.

Most of Albion township is drained by the Beaver Creek which flows through it from west to east. In the early days the Beaver was bordered by natural timber but the major portion was burned out by prairie fires many years ago.

The Illinois Central Railroad passes through this township from west to east, and the Northwestern from the south.

The Hawkeye Highway passed through the township from the east. This highway was in charge of a commissioner known as the Hawkeye Highway Commissioner. It was a dragged road. Now it is known as Highway No. 20.

Albion township commenced its evolution toward settlement and civilization in 1853. Some of the other early settlers were: Wilmont Wilbur, P. P. Parker, Samuel Cramer, Michael Niece, Sylvaniss H. Taylor, Henry Owen, Elihu Jaquis, James V. Billings. From 1855 on settlement in the township was rapid. Large number of families of German nationality settled upon farms in the township. Emerson says, "Biography is the only true history" and we agree but because of space involved we are forced to omit many many names that should be in this account.

The first mail route through the township was established in 1855. Mail was carried on horseback from Cedar Falls to Iowa Falls and Fort Dodge until 1857, when a stage line under the control of Fink and Walker was established.

The first levy of taxes was made in October 1854 by Judge Palmer. The total amount of tax for the year was only 698.50.6.

Few of us today would or could endure the hardships the early pioneers in Albion township did. The nearest grist mill was at Cedar Rapids and Independence. The trip could be made with a four-horse team in a week if the weather was favorable. Later on a mill was built at Cedar Falls. In 1856 the first mill in Butler county was erected at Clarksville.

A village by the name of New Albion was platted about 1856, in the northern part of the township. It was at one time quite flourishing with saw mill, postoffice and several stores.

The town of Parkersburg in Albion township is one of the best points for trade and business in Butler County.

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP

The Early Settlement of Ripley

Perhaps no other township in the county varies so much in its early settlement as does Ripley. The West Fork of the Cedar cuts the township almost in half and due to its tendency to overflow the wide bottoms, it proved to be quite a formidable barrier, especially in spring. An example of this is noted in the experience of James Hunter, the second settler of the township, who tried twice unsuccessfully to reach his claim on the north side of the river in 1854. There were also some who took up land along the river only to find that it overflowed, forcing them to move to higher locations. Most of the early settlement was along the two ridges north and south of the river, the southwest part of the township being the last to receive settlers. There was an abundance of good timber along the river that was accessible to all of the township; much of it being hickory, oak and ash. There were also several good springs that never ceased to flow and which were located along the two ridges. These springs were naturally included in the first claims that were recorded.

The first settler in the township was George McConnell who came to Ripley in the spring of 1854 and took up a claim on section 15. He was a bachelor and a very genial sort of a man who made all the early travellers and land seekers welcome at his cabin.

The second settler, as before mentioned, was James Hunter who came in 1854 and spent the first winter with McConnell. The following spring he took up a claim on section 13.

In July of 1855, the famliies of John and Christian Hites made their advent in Ripley and took up claims on sections 20 and 28 respectively. Much could be written about the Hites families, as in later years there were as many as sixteen families by this name, who were residents of the township and the county. Christian Hites died in 1861, and was buried in the little cemetery at Hitesville.

The following month of August saw Andrew Hesse settle on section 20; he too is represented by numerous descendents.

Other settlers of 1855 were: Nathan Linn, Michael Considine and George Stoner. The Considines and the Stoners stayed on, but Linn after remaining six years, removed to Monroe township.

John Moorehead and George Monroe were the most prominent settlers of 1856. It seems there was also another settler of that year of whom an amusing incident is related: A Mr. Elmore who had taken up some land along the river, sent his brother-in-law with a team and other equipment to start work on it. The brother-in-law was an irascible fellow who devoted most of his time to the making of Limberger cheese. This did not pay out however, so he sold the team and by the simple expedient of pocketing the proceeds, lit out for California. Elmore, who naturally did not hear from his brother-in-law, came inquiring, and was shocked to learn that he had skipped the country.

Henry Trotter, a staunch Irishman, came to Ripley in 1856 or 1857. He was a hard working fellow and held about all the various township offices at one time or another.

Joe Santee, who first settled in the Butler Center community in 1855 and then in Ripley in 1859, is another early settler who is represented by well known descendents in this county. He is credited with building the first house in Butler Center and with helping to stake out the first road between Butler Center and Shell Rock on July 4, 1855.

Edwin Kincaid is another who first settled at Butler Center and then came to Ripley in 1862, settling on section 9. He owned 540 acres at one time.

There are some settlers who came at an early date who for some reason or other have not been mentioned in any of the early histories. One of these was Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Kimmel, who came in 1855. It is thought that they settled on section 29.

There were no doubt others who did not file any entry on the land, and who soon moved on.

Perhaps the most prominent settler of Ripley was Jacob Yost who first settled in Madison Township in 1857 and then on section 8 of Ripley in 1865. He was married to Julia Crosby in Ohio in 1832, and she died in Tama county in 1853. Four children were born to this union. In 1855 he married Saranu Sparks and she died in 1856. In 1857 he married Miss Evaline B. Scott and ten children were born to them, eight of whom lived to maturity. Jacob Yost died in 1891 at the age of 81 years and his wife died in 1888.

John McLaren, another well known and respected settler of Ripley came in 1879. His wife was the former Miss Rachael Yost, a daughter of Jacob Yost.

William McKernan who came to Ripley in 1868, was a native of Ireland. He remained in Ripley for a number of years and then moved to Bennezette township.

Daniel Haynes who came in 1857 and settled on section 16 was one of the unfortunates who were forced to move by the repeated overflowing of the West Fork. He relocated in the southwest part of the township and enlisted in the Union army during the war. He returned safely but never remained with his family permanently after that.

As far as can be determined there are no known descendents of the early settlers mentioned that are residents of Ripley township today. There are a number of them scattered throughout the county and doubtless some of us are very familiar with the names that have been mentioned in this admittedly scant history that we have been able to obtain.

The Hitesville and Fairview Churches

There are two country churches in Ripley and both are active today. They are the Hitesville Gospel hall, located on section 20, and the Fairview E.U.B. church on section 4.

EVANGELICAL
UNITED BRETHREN
CHURCH

The Fairview E. U. B. Church

The church at Hitesville was originally of the United Brethren denomination and it was built in 1891, also dedicated on August 9th of that year. The first pastor was the Rev. Geo. Trindle, and for many years there was a regular pastor but in later years they were supplied from other churches.

It is no longer denominational; being known as the Hitesville Gospel Hall and the original structure has been remodeled with a large addition added, which will accommodate a large assemblage. Regular meetings are held here and there is a very good attendance from the surrounding community.

The Hitesville Gospel Hall

The Fairview church was built in 1914 and was of the German reformed denomination until 1930 when they sold the church to the Evangelicals who had held services in the Fairview schoolhouse for a number of years before that. The church has been remodeled since.

The Fairview community in former years, contained no less than three religious groups all of whom held meetings at the Fairview schoolhouse, under the most amiable of terms. These groups were namely: The Brethren, Evangelical and German Reformed.

The first minister to serve in the present church for the German Reformed was a Rev. Bosch and the first to serve the Evangelicals was a Rev. Mether. Both denominations have always been served by pastors from other churches. The present E.U.B. pastor is the Rev. Dr. G. E. MaCannon from Bristow.

Regardless of the denomination, the Fairview church has always been a shining example of an active country church, in an intensely religious community.

The Old West Fork Crossings

There were two crossings that were used most of the time to ford the West Fork in the early days. One of these was located just above Yost's bridge and the other known as the lower crossing was just below. These crossings were both hazardous to the extreme due to the shifting sands; still they were about the only approachable crossings for several miles on either side.

Site of the lower crossing just below Yost's bridge on the West Fork

There is an amusing incident connected with the lower crossing, that gives a good picture of what travel through the country was like in the early days.

A man from Tama County who wished to reach his claim in the northern part of Butler, arrived at the crossing late in March when the river was at fairly high stage. He had in his wagon a few possesions which included a wife of mammoth proportions and who weighed in the neighborhood of three hundred pounds. The man himself was a large and powerful fellow.

Upon reaching the crossing and sizing up the situation, he decided to remove the wagon box and take the team and running gears across first. This was successfully accomplished and after he had floated the wagon box across with the aid of a rope, he set about ferrying some of the household effects across on his back though the water was over waist deep and icy cold.

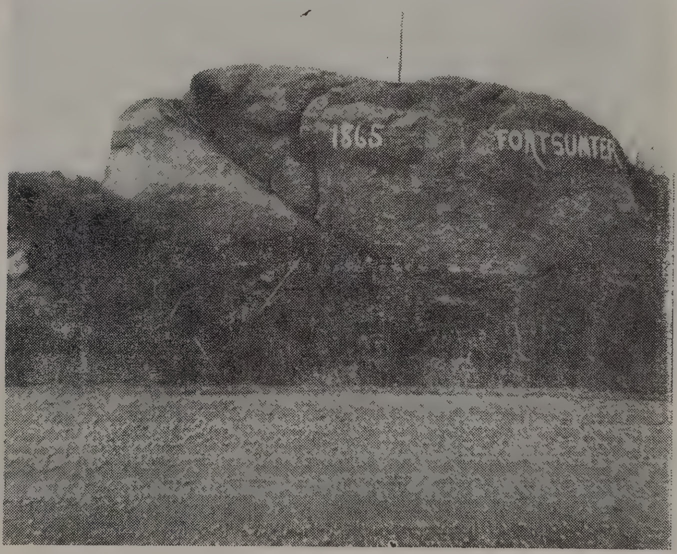
The distraught madam stood on the bank during these proceedings and wrung her hands in dismay, wondering how she would ever cross the raging torrent in safety. She had not long to wonder however, for after the last items had been carried across, her loving spouse simply hoisted her upon his shoulders and transported her in the same fashion to the farther shore.

The lower crossing is still recognizable yet today, but the upper one has been almost obliterated by the floods of the years.

The vicinity of the crossings was the scene of a tragedy in 1869.

Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Scott were on their way to visit some of Mrs. Scott's relatives who were ill and as the bottoms were inundated at the time they missed the winding trail and plunged into a pond with their team and wagon. Mrs. Scott was drowned and Mr. Scott barely escaped with his life. The team was also drowned. This was just a short distance to the south of the crossings.

Mr .Scott was the grandfather of Mrs. Rachael McLaren, now in her 80th year and a resident of Allison. Mrs. Scott was the second wife of Mr. Scott and was formerly Miss Sally Taylor.



The Fort Sumter Rock

The Fort Sumter Rock

About one mile north of Yost's bridge and standing squarely on top the north ridge, is a landmark known as the Fort Sumter Rock. There is a legend connected with this rock that undoubtedly has more truth than fiction in it.

It is said that a man traveling the north ridge at the close of the Civil War stopped at the rock and using axle tar for the purpose scrawled the inscription "Fort Sumter" and the date, 1865. He is also said to have wedged a staff bearing a small American flag in a crevice on the top of the rock.

The inscription was probably inspired by the return of the famous Fort into Union hands in the closing days of the war. The inscription has been kept freshly painted all through the years and we can see it today as we travel the road at the top of the north ridge.

A Eulogy

Elijah came to Butler County and Ripley township with the families of his father and his uncle, in the summer of 1855. A couple of miles to the northeast on some high ground on the north side of the river there were two cabins and that was all; unless you wanted to include some abandoned Indian lodges that were still standing a little farther up the river. All this could be seen from the south ridge where the two families had their claims.

There was no time to visit the two neighbors or explore Indian villages though for he had to help cut and haul the logs from the river bottoms that were to be used to build the two cabins on the ridge.

After a week of hard work at hewing and mortising, the two cabins were completed enough so that they could move in their few possesisons; the trimmings could come later. Now the oxen were hooked to the breaker and they began the task of turning the prairie sod. It was too late to plant a crop this year but as it was almost impossible to work the sod that had been turned in the spring, they would turn every acre that they could now. Through the heat of late summer and all through the fall, they worked at this, stopping only long enough to cut and stack some of the wild hay just before the first frost.

The nearest store was at Clarksville about ten miles across country to the northeast and it was here they had to go for their provisions. There were a few elk along the river bottoms and deer were quite numerous so it wasn't too much of a problem to secure thier winters meat. The last thing to be done was to cut and haul the firewood and it took a huge quantity of this for the long winter ahead.

The next year and those that followed were the same for Elijah's family as it was for all the others of those times. Crops of wheat, corn, beans and potatoes were grown with the hardest kind of labor. Hogs were now raised for meat as the wild game, elk, deer, and buffalo, had all but disappeared. In the fall of 1856 a great prairie fire came sweeping up from the south leaving a blackened desolation in it's wake, before it was stopped by the river a mile or so to the north. Their cabins and livestock were saved by plowing a number of furrows around them. Then came the winter of 1856-57, which proved to be one of the worst in the history of the county. Snow fell that winter to a depth of three and four feet and alternate freezing and thawing put a thick crust on it. Elk and deer broke through the crust and were easy prey for the wolves and indiscriminate hunters. After that winter there were no elk and very few deer.

In the spring of 1861 the Civil War came with its fury and destruction and the young men enlisted in military units as fast as they were organized. Elijah did not go that first year, but in the fall of 1862, he enlisted in the 32nd Iowa Infantry, and went to Camp Franklin near Dubuque to be mustered in on October 6. It was here that he received what little training that time afforded, and was also given his first glimpse of what sickness can do to an army. The sickness was in the form of a malignant type of measles and many of the boys died.

In the middle of November, 1862 his regiment moved out and proceeded by stages to New Madrid, Missouri, which they evacuated by order soon after. The regiment next went to Fort Pillow Tennessee, where it was on garrison duty until the next summer. From here it went to Fort Quimby to continue in the same capacity until January, 1864. In the month of February they started on the disastrous Red River expedition.

On March 9 they received their baptism when Fort De Russey was captured. The 32nd was the first to enter the Fort. After a month of maneuvering and marching, they found themselves again on Red River at Grand 'Ecore, where on the 9th of April they engaged superior Confederate forces in the bloody battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. The 32nd was the first in battle and soon after found themselves and two other regiments cut off from the main army by a quick movement of the larger Confederate forces. They made good their escape by literally catapulting themselves through the rebel lines. They lost half their number in killed and wounded.

It was in the terrible fighting of the regiment to free itself, that Elijah received a motal wound and died on the field of battle alongside of eleven other boys from Butler County.*

How many of us today have heard of Pleasant Hill? Elijah's grave very probably bears only a small mili-

ARNOLD HEXOM

Auctioneer

ALL SALES APPRECIATED

Qualified by 22 Years of

Actual Experience

Member of the State and National

Auctioneers Ass'n.

Phone 175 J **Waverly, Iowa**

tary marker, with no inscription. If it were inscribed, it would read:

PVT. ELIJAH HITES
CO. E
32ND IOWA INFANTRY

*For any one who may be interested in the names of those who fell at Pleasant Hill and elsewhere, they may be found in the Butler County history 1883 or 1914.

Ripley Township
By Charles Yost, Sr.

The first settler in the township was George McConnell, who filed his claim in section fifteen in the year 1854, near what is now known as Meads Bridge. This land later became a part of the H. C. "Hank" Mead farm which was well known for the large numbers of livestock raised, fed, bought and sold from here. The second settler in the township was James Hunter who took up a claim on section 13 in April, 1855. In July of 1855 J. C. and Christian Hites came to Ripley township. J. C. Hites made a claim section 20. Christian Hites settled on section 28.

Thus started the settlement of Hitesville which became an important part in the early life in Ripley township.

The first white child born in the township was Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hunter on August 2, 1856. The first death in the Township was a child of Samuel Kimmel, in October 1855 with burial in Hitesville cemetery. The first marriage was Richard Davenport and Miss Susannah Kimmel in 1859. The first bridge across the West Fork in the township was in section 15 in the year 1860, now known as Meads Bridge.

In looking back over the achievements of the past 100 years it is with wonder, when we think of the first pioneers with their steel pointed wooden plows and yoke of oxen to, for example, the Francis Winkowitsch dairy farm, who with crawler tractors pulling six plows at a speed of six or eight times faster than the oxen, now farms 1280 acres part owned and part under lease and embracing much of the Hites land. Mr. Winkowitsch operates a modern dairy farm producing grade A milk. Completely mechanized from the fields into four huge silos or mamouth hay mows, out of this storage into feeders by conveyers, to milking parlors with automatic feeders where fifty cows per hour can be milked, from milking machines the milk flows directly into refrigerated storage tanks from which it is pumped into refrigerated tank trucks several times a week and hauled to the city. This farm has two hundred twenty pure-bred Holstein cattle, of which about one hundred head are milking at this time.

Landmarks

In the year 1865, when there were no bridges, roads fences or buildings to speak of in Butler County, the nearest place any one could obtain papers or news was Cedar Falls. People from Butler County and counties north and west had a trail across the county from Hampton to Cedar Falls where they traveled with their wheat to the mill. Another trail went in another direction from what is now Greene to what was then known as Bois Grove, crossing the Cedar Falls trail north of the present school house in Ft. Sumter district, on what was long known as the C. K. Yost farm. A large rock was at the intersection of these two trails. Mr. S. B. Dumont, an early pioneer of Butler County, had been to Cedar Falls and had heard the news that old Fort Sumter had been retaken from the Confederate army.

On returning, when he came to the huge boulder at the intersection of the trails, he knew that he was in home territory and painted on the rock the words "Ft. Sumter" with greas from the wheels of his wagon.

Every one was extremely anxious at that time to hear the news and it spread rapidly over the country.

Ripley Township, Yost Bridge

We have heard the question many times asking how the Yost Bridge across the West Fork river at section 7 and 8 got this name.

In early days the pioneers found a place about 300 feet east of the present bridge to be the best crossing for miles to ford the river, due to the sloping banks and gravel bottom. This spot became known as Yost ford from Jacob Yost, who came to Iowa in 1852, built a log cabin and settled on higher ground not far north of the crossing in 1866.

History and legend record many near tragedies and at least two drownings at this crossing during floods and high water. The present bridge at this point is the fourth to bear his name there.

Mr. Yost deserves mention for a large part in exterminating wolf packs which molested the settlers livestock and was depleting the wild deer and elk which roamed the prairies in those days.

Beaver Township and New Hartford
By H. O. Geyer

Beaver Township, the home of the first Butler County Fair held in the village of Willoughby (long since a place of the past) in the year of 1856, is located in the southeast corner of Butler County embracing the territory of township 90, range 15 and contains an area of about 23,040 acres.

Two main water courses are in the township, the Beaver and the West Fork of the Cedar. The latter enters the township south of the center of section six, and crossing makes an exit near the middle of section twelve where it empties almost directly into the Shell Rock. The Beaver—so named because in the early days its waters were the resort of this animal—enters the township on section thirty one and taking an easterly course finally flows through section thirty six into Black Hawk County. Speaking of Beavers it is reported that they are again becoming active along this stream in Butler County and that they have built quite a dam across the stream between New Hartford and Sinclair.

New Hartford Beaver Creek Flood, June 13, 1947
Left to right: Kenneth Harmon, Richard Van Mill, Merton Johnson, Howard Norton, Harley Parks, Harry Norton, Emil Aagaard.

The Illinois Central Railroad crosses the township from east to west, having been constructed in 1864. The only town in the township now is New Hartford.

Settlements began to be formed in this township in advance of most townships in Butler County. There is abundant evidence that Barnett Grandon, who came from Linn County and planted his pioneer stakes around a farm on section thirty, was the first settler.

The spring of 1852 brought Clinton Thomas to section twenty nine. That fall, his father, Adna Thomas Sr. came and settled on section twenty nine, the farm now owned by William H. Nieman. Here he remained until his death, August 12, 1868 and was buried on his farm beneath some buckeye trees.

Rev. Nathan Olmstead came in 1853 and settled on section eighteen and in January 1854 he entered the land. This is the farm now tenanted by John Shaw and family. In 1842, Rev. Olmstead joined the Protestant Methodist Church and soon after became a minister of the gospel. In 1858 he was ordained and elder in that denomination. He preached the first sermon here the Sunday after his arrival, and soon afterward organized a church.

Others crowded in rapidly, among whom were the following named: James Collar, George E. Fitch, S. Hazelton, Charles Knipe, Aaron Olmstead, Peter Rude, John Hartgraves, Titus Ensign, Charles Ensign. Among other early settlers were—Baldwin Lewis, Alonzo Converse, Patrick Flinn, Michael Rude, L. B. Corwin, C. S. Root, Samuel Fetters, Robert Stanley and others.

Education

The early school facilities of Beaver Township were very good and equal in efficiency to those of any township of Butler County.

The first school taught in the township was taught during the summer of 1855 in a log building which was the residence of Baldwin Lewis on section twenty eight. The teacher was Miss America Taylor, who died in Grundy County a short time after closing her school.

The second school was taught by Charles Ensign in New Hartford in the winter of 1856-57. The third school

SELLS LUNCH & POOL

YOUR BUSINESS APPRECIATED

New Hartford Iowa

KLODT'S SHOE STORE

Everything for the Feet

New Hartford Iowa

DIX & RAWDON

FARM EQUIPMENT

Dependable Service at Low-cost

Dial 3-2465

Make Our Store Your Headquarters

New Hartford Iowa

RAY'S BARBER SHOP

YOUR BUSINESS APPRECIATED

New Hartford Iowa

FOR FOOD THAT'S OKAY

EAT AT HOME CAFE

New Hartford Iowa

Fickess Cities Service

Complete Repair Service

Batteries — Tires — Accessories

YOUR BUSINESS APPRECIATED

Phone F13-2510 New Hartford, Iowa

in the summer of 1857 in New Hartford was taught by Mrs. Sarah Dean.

The fourth school of the township was taught at the residence of James Collar in the southeast corner of section fifteen, by Mrs. James Collar during the winter of 1857-58 with seven pupils in attendance.

In 1859, the first school house was erected in New Hartford and was used for both school and church purposes.

In 1883 there were eleven school houses in the township, all frame buildings that had cost about $600 each. In 1920 most of these schools consolidated with the New Hartford School District to form the Consolidated School District of New Hartford, the first consolidated school district in Butler County.

Items of Historical Interest

The first marriage solemnized in Beaver Township was in 1857, the contracting parties being William Dodd and Miss Dowd. They were made one at the residence of the bride's father on section fifteen.

The first death in the township was the wife of Joseph Casto, who had come to the vicinity in 1856.

In 1856 and 1957 there was but little advancement in matters here on account of financial stringency. During this time trading was done mostly at Cedar Falls. The land office was in Dubuque and not a few exciting races were made for that office in 1857.

The first religious services were held in the home of Adna Thomas Sr. on section twenty nine in May, 1853 by the Reverend Nathan Olmstead and a Protestant Methodist Church was organized with Rev. Olmstead as the pastor. When a Methodist Church was organized in New Hartford this little band became a part of the same. Mr. and Mrs. Adna Thomas Sr. and Reverend and Mrs. Nathan Olmstead were the maternal great grand parents of Miss Lela Geyer of Allison and Harold Geyer of New Hartford.

Early Industries

The early industry appears to have been the sawing of lumber for a sawmill was erected in 1855 by a Mr. Marslin on a site on section nine and for a number of years piled up sawdust, but was finally torn down. The second mill was on section twenty eight built by Titus and S. B. Ensign. A steam sawmill was erected at an early day on section thirty, by Alonzo Norris. After a few years service, the machinery was sold and moved to Kansas and the building rotted down. Another steam mill was built on section twenty nine by James Williams, who led a roving life. It was sold and resold and finally moved to Tennessee.

Cemeteries

The first ground in the township used for burial purposes was located on section twenty four. The first interment was the wife of Michael Rude, whose death occurred in the fall of 1854. Evidently she died outside the township for her death was not the first reported.

Beaver Grove Cemetery is located on section twenty nine, and burials were made there before it was laid out as a cemetery, but who was the first buried there is

New Hartford Hardware

Home Owned I.R.H.A.
Hardware Store

A NATION-WIDE ASSOCIATION OF RETAILERS · PLEDGED TO SERVICE · QUALITY · VALUE
The Independent HOME OWNED HARDWARE STORE

New Hartford, Iowa Phone 3-2344

Townsend & Merrill Co.

Lumber, Coal, Lime, Tile & Roofing

American Fence, All kinds of
Plastering Material
and Paint

New Hartford Iowa

Congratulations to the Butler Co. Fair

HAWKEYE GARAGE

Service & Repairs
D-X Products
New Hartford — Iowa

D. A. Nicholson Phone FI3-2254

DIRKES GROCERY

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Your Business Appreciated

New Hartford Dial FI 3-2224 Iowa

not known.

John Peckham was the first person buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, located on section twenty eight. His burial was in December, 1876.

Organization

On the 5th of October 1857, Beaver Township was made to include only its present limits. The first election was held at the village of Willoughby and Charles Ensign, James B. Hare and Lewis Hammod were elected as trustees with Alonzo Converse as Clerk. Present township officers are Burl Bolton, Revel Darnell and Ray S. Huntley as Trustees and H. O. Geyer as Clerk.

Village of Willoughby

The village was laid out in the spring of 1855 in the southwest quarter of section nine. The first house was built in 1855 and torn down in 1862. A store opened in the fall of 1855 and a blacksmith shop started in 1856. A hotel was built by Cornwall Brothers in 1856 and continued to operate until 1872 when it closed. Nothing now remains on the site to show that this was once a prosperous village in the township.

Business Street, New Hartford, Iowa

New Hartford

New Hartford is located in the northeast quarter of section three of the Illinois Central Railroad.

In August 1854, Titus and S. B. Ensign arrived here from Castile, New York and made arrangements to build a mill, after which they returned to New York. Before leaving they purchased the east half of the section on which the town is located. In January 1855, Messrs. Ensign returned to New Hartford, erected their mill and log house. During the fall they platted New Hartford which consisted of eight blocks and one public square, each block divided into eight lots four by eight rods. The streets running east and west were Saratoga, Main and Water commencing on the south side. Later additions extended the town to the west.

Educational

Primary School (about 1908) New Hartford, Iowa

Early school history has been related in Beaver Township. A school house was built in New Hartford in 1857, but was soon found to be unsuitable both in size and accommodations and in 1867, a very good two story building was erected, both stories being furnished for school purposes. This served until 1897 when it was

HEERTS & COMPANY

Groceries ★ Meats ★ Lockers
Quality — Service — Economy

New Hartford Iowa

C. J. VAN MILL

PLUMBING & HEATING
Water Systems & Repairs
CONGRATULATIONS

Phone FI 3-2448 New Hartford, Iowa

New Hartford Elevator Co.

Grain, Seeds, Feed, Wire, Tile
and
Commercial Fertilizers
Merrill Shaw, Prop.

New Hartford, Iowa Phone FI 3-2359

sold and moved, it with an addition added now serves the I.O.O.F. as their hall. A new brick structure of four rooms was built and it served until one Monday in November 1916 it burned to the ground during the noon hour. Classes were held in halls and churches until a new building was erected in 1917-1918 which was enlarged in 1927. A small building on Broadway served as a primary school for many years. It is now the American Legion hall. Additional class rooms and a bus barn were built in 1948 and a new modern gymnasium was added in 1949. School territory is in Beaver, Albion Townships, Butler County and Fairfield and Beaver Townships, Grundy County.

As in all communities, schools at some time or other have caused a lot of heated arguments, and the New Hartford School District has had its share with many a hot election.

New Hartford School about 1912-13

Religious

In 1857 saw the organization of a Baptist society in New Hartford. They built a church in 1866 at a cost of $5,500.00 and it is stated that this was the first building in the county used exclusively for church purposes. They enlarged and remodelled their church in the early 1900s. The present membership is reported to be 125 and the pastor is the Reverend Donald E. Steinfort. The church is presently affiliated with the General Assembly of Regular Baptists.

A Methodist Class was organized in 1857 and out of this class group came the Methodist Church of New Hartford. A church was erected in 1871 at a cost of $3,000. This building was enlarged in 1907-1908 and in 1955 an extensive expansion and remodeling program was begun, which when completed will have cost about $42,000 cash plus many hours of donated labor. The membership June 1955 was 329 and Dr. Edward T. Gough is the present pastor. A growing Sunday School, Men's Club, WSCS, and two MYF groups are among its affiliates.

From Catholic history of the Dubuque Archdiocese it appears that a Catholic mission was organized in New Hartford about 1876-1879. A resident priest did not arrive in Parkersburg until 1889 and New Hartford was one of its missions. A church, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, was built here over 65 years ago (exact date is unobtainable). It was not until about 1910 that Mass was said here every Sunday, due to difficulty in travel. The Reverend Father Edward Flynn, Belle Plaine and Father Louis Flynn, Nashua and Monsignor Leo Flynn, deceased, of Denver, Colo. are native vocations of the New Hartford parish. The present membership is fifteen families (67 souls) according to their last census and they are ministered unto by the Rev. Father Carl Joseph Ruhland, who came to Parkersburg, Allison and New Hartford, December 6, 1955.

Postoffice

A postoffice was established in New Hartford in 1858. Dr. Joseph Casto was the first postmaster. It was made a money order office August 15, 1881 and the first order sent on that date was for $10.00 and was sent by David Diltz to William Ewald of Waterloo. The first order received was paid on the same date to Dr. Wm. H. H. Hagey, remittor being W. C. Sackett of Sterling, Illinois, the amount being $9.75. During the years the office has been located in many different places, but at present it is located in the south part of the bank building. E. L. Perrin is the present postmaster and Donald E. Carson is the carrier on the one rural route.

Fraternal

During the past three quarters of the century there have been many fraternal organizations, but quite a few have folded up and "quietly have stole away."

A Masonic lodge was instituted February 26, 1885 with eighteen members and during the years of its existence has been an outstanding Lodge in the county. At the present time it is the largest lodge of the county. Its membership December 31, 1955 being ninety nine. In the early days the lodge met in the light of the moon. It has been reported that members from other lodges visiting on special occasions would reach home when the sun was coming up in the morning, but that was before the days of gas driven vehicles.

A chapter of the Order of Eastern Star was organized June 14, 1892 with twenty two members. One of the original members still survives, Mrs. Clarence Sprague 86, who was the first Worthy Matron of the Chapter. It celebrated its golden anniversary June 19, 1942 and its sixtieth in June, 1952. For the first time in its nearly sixty four years of existence, it conducted its first Eastern Star funeral on January 16, 1956.

In the 1940's lodges of the I.O.O.F. and Rebekahs were reorganized, earlier lodges of these orders having been disbanded several years previous. Both lodges are in flourishing condition.

After the Civil War, the Womans Relief Corp was organized as an auxiliary to the G.A.R. Although the G.A.R. has passed into history with the passing of the Civil War veterans, its auxiliary is still functioning and is a very active organization.

1940 saw a Post and Auxiliary of the American Legion organized as veterans organizations and are both quite active. Charles Fobian is the Legion Commander and Mrs. Francis Clabough is president of the Auxiliary.

The New Hartford Womens Club was started in 1897 and still continues as an active club, meeting every two weeks. It sponsored the organization of a public library in the late 40's and still remains its sponsor. The library being located in the basement of the bank building.

Numerous other clubs along with a strong Farm Bureau organization are parts of the civic and social life of New Hartford and surrounding territory.

Early interests and activities of the community were singing schools, the first organized in winter of 1857 by Robert Shaw and many pleasant social hours were passed by the music lovers of the town, spelling bees, old fashioned camp meetings, dances and social visitation with ones neighbors.

July Fourth, 1857

The villagers and citizens of the surrounding country felt the necessity of helping save the Union, so far as manifesting their patriotism was concerned, and on the Fourth day of July 1857, the anniversary of the Nation's Independence was celebrated in grand style in New Hartford. The officers of the day were Martin Bailey, President; E. S. Shaw, Marshal; Judd Bradley, Assistant Marshal and Alonzo Converse, Orator. Everything passed off very pleasantly and patriotically and those who participated went home feeling in good spirits, and the day profitably spent. So far as historians have been able to learn, this was the first celebration in the county.

Other Things of Interest

July 4th, 1896, while a majority of the inhabitants were in Cedar Falls celebrating fire broke out in the livery stable and destroyed the major part of the business section on the west side of Packwaukee Street. Most of the buildings were replaced, but during the passing of time many of those buildings replaced after the big fire had been removed.

New Hartford Business District looking North in early 1900's

September 1920 saw another fire destroy several business buildings on the east side of the street north of the bank building.

In the fall of 1923, Moore and Good had decided that New Hartford should have an elevator and erected such a building, but late in October on a Saturday night about 11:45 the building was discovered to be on fire and was burned before it was completely finished. Not to be dismayed in their efforts the building was promptly rebuilt and New Hartford had an elevator, although a little later than had been expected.

Water mains and a water system was installed in the town after the fire of 1896. A wooden water tower was erected on the site of the present tower, this served until one spring morning in 1914 when the old tank decided that it could not stand the strain any longer, burst her seams and emptied all her water down upon the neighborhood and fell with a crash to the ground. The present steel tank was erected during the summer of 1915.

Late in June 1902, New Hartford had a flood that swept through the town and again forty five years later, June 13, 1947 it was again inundated. Water was deep enough during both these floods so that a row boat or a motor boat could be used for rides around the town, if you could get out.

From 1912 to the World War I, there were a lot of fine male voices in New Hartford and after the closing of the stores on Saturday nights these males would gather at the barber shop or cafe and would render "good old fashioned barber shop harmony." Among these fine singers were C. B. DeVeny, John M. Young, John Grady, Art Simbric, Curtis Faris, Art Campbell, C. R. Dodd, Roy Van Deest, Leon Geyer and others. Oh how sweet it would be to hear those fine voices once again.

Leon Geyer, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer, was the first Butler County boy to give his life on the battlefield in World War I, his death was on June 6, 1918 at Cantigy, France.

From the minutes of the Beaver Township School District of October 8, 1859—Moved and seconded that the Sub Director of each district pay mail (Male) teacher not to exceed four dollars per week and board themselves and feemailes (Females) three dollars per week and board themselves for each school taught in Beaver Township during the winter of 1860. Carried. Some difference from the teachers wage of 1956.

From the minutes of the school meeting March 14, 1859—Mr. Charles Ensign offered the following resolution; Resolved that the sense of this meeting on all questions except the election of officers be taken "viva voce." Carried.

The Butler County Mutual Fire Insurance Company was organized in New Hartford on February 18, 1876. This company erected a new modern home office here during the summer of 1955. Mr. Dale Brinkman is the company secretary.

1956 Business Houses of New Hartford

Thompson Blacksmith Shop, Hawkeye Garage (Dodd & Nicholson), Dix and Rawdon (International Machinery), New Hartford Hardware (John Johnson, Jr.), Ray's Barber Shop (R. C. Christensen), Home Cafe (Sylvia Gast), O. N. Klodt Harness and Shoes, Townsend and Merrill (Lumber), New Hartford Co-operative Creamery Co., McMullen Skelly Station, Stevens and Goodsell Machinery, Butler Co. Mutual Fire Insurance Co., New Hartford Office Parkersburg Bank, Dirkes Super Market, Heerts and Co. (Groceries), Sells Lunch and Pool Room, New Hartford Elevator (Shaw and Wagoner), Fickess Oil Station, Van Mill Plumbing and Heating, Hansen Tavenr (Paul Hansen).

Town Officials

J. E. Emery—Major, H. H. Hovelson—Councilman, V. W. Plummer—Councilman, Philip Stevens—Councilman, George E. Dove—Councilman, W. N. Towsley—Councilman, Jas. L. Rogers—Treasurer.

New Hartford has a very good fire department with a modern fire truck, but has no lawyers, dentists and has had no doctor since the spring of 1948.

Shell Rock Township

By Mrs. Glen P. Thompson

The township, comprising 91 north, range 15 west, derives its name from Shell Rock River which rises in Albert Lea Lake, in Minnesota, and empties into the Cedar River approximately five miles above Cedar Falls. The fertile valley of this river, early made famous by trappers, hunters, and others who chanced to visit this delectable region, soon excited the curiosity of prospecting pioneers, who at first sight were charmed by the natural attractiveness of the country. Consequently the first settlements were made along the Shell Rock River.

The following are some of the early settlers of this township: Frederick Frowe; H. L. Sweitzer; Asa Stannard; J. D. Landphere; Amos Ressler; John Drum; Martin Gleason; G .C. Hawley; O. J. Wheeler; Sylvester Rice; Joseph Walker; James Whitehead; J. W. Allen; Henry Nettleton; Phineas Weed; Lawyer W. Howard; G. G. Blake; John Bowen; Joseph R. Gibson; Colonel H. Greene; Charles Johnson; Washington Tharp; John Christy; Benjamin Robbins; E. B. Corson; John H. Meade; Gasper T. Husband; Charles A. Jones; Michael Hollenbeck and Lyman Norton.

The early settlements in the township were largely made up of men and women whose wealth consisted chiefly of youth, health, industrious habits and a determination to better their condition in life. They came from many states and foreign lands and had little or nothing in common except the common experience of having to struggle to accumulate anything of a surplus over bare subsistence and the earnest desire to leave to their children something other than an inheritance of the habit of industry. They saw in these unsettled prairies the possibilities of a great future, and spent the best years of their lives in the building of a new civilization.

The young people of today can know little and ap-

Jebe's Home Furnishings

A Complete Line of Home Furnishings

Aladdin * Ashley * Armstrong * Bromley * Chromcraft * Craddock * Cosco * Durham * Flexsteel * Fort Smith * Holabird * Hooker * International * Koylcn Kuehne * Lane * Lee * Leedom * Loma-Loom * Luger * Mastercraft * Nemschoff * Northwestern * Oxford * Permalux * Reglor * Salisbury * Sanford * Spring-Air * Union of Jefferson * Virginia House * Volckman *

Your Rapid Thermogas Dealer

Butler Counties Oldest and Largest
Furniture Store

Shell Rock Iowa

SECURITY STATE BANK

COMPLETE BANKING SERVICE

You are invited to make this Bank

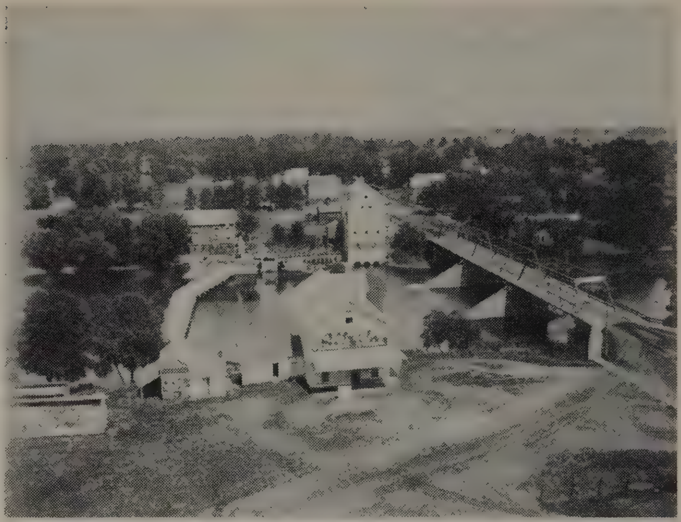
Your Bank

Member of Federal Deposit

Insurance Corporation

Telephone 33 Shell Rock, Iowa

preciate less the slow progress of evolution that has transformed the prairies of 100 years ago into the beautiful farms of unsurpassed fertility, adorned with shady groves, modern homes, and magnificent barns and outbuildings equipped with every modern labor-saving device, that surround us on every side today. They cannot realize that our modern system of transportation of persons, commodities and news by a network of railroads and telegraph lines, automobiles, planes radios, television, rural telephones and rural mail delivery has so recently displaced the emigrant wagon drawn by oxen, the stagecoach and the weekly horseback mail carrier; that our towns, cities and thriving villages with modern homes, business blocks, factories, banks, churches and school houses have, within the memory of the older citizens, displaced the Indian wigwam and the pioneer log cabin and sod house.


View of the old bridge, both mills, the dam and old woolen mill in Shell Rock

Shell Rock

Late in the fall of 1850, two brothers, Harrison and Volney Carpenter, made their way up the Shell Rock River valley and built the first log cabin in Butler County. The first settlement in the township was made in 1951 by these two brothers and D. C. Finch, who spent most of their time hunting and trapping. The small log cabin was a sort of "hunters' rendevous." Volney's land in Sec. 1, included the old town plat of Shell Rock, which he sold to Alexander Glenn in 1852. Harrison Carpenter sold his property in Sec. 1, to Daniel Myers.

In 1853 George W. Adair purchased 40 acres on the east side of the river in section 11, from Alexander Glenn. Mr. Adair was born in Lexington, Va., Oct. 31, 1813. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Smith, a native of Ohio, on January 17, 1841, and came to Shell Rock in 1853. During the summer he erected a sawmill on the east side of the river and built the first dam at Shell Rock, Hiram Ross being his mill-wright. After serving its purpose, the mill was torn down in 1878. The dam was partially washed out in 1855, so a new dam was built by George W. and William Adair.

Mr. Adair laid out the village of Shell Rock in the

FARMERS SUPPLY CO.

John Deere Sales & Service

Phone 67 G M C Trucks

JOHN DEERE
QUALITY FARM EQUIPMENT

Shell Rock Iowa

Renning Motor Co.

Phone 93

CONGRATULATIONS

to the

Butler County Centennial Fair

Shell Rock Iowa

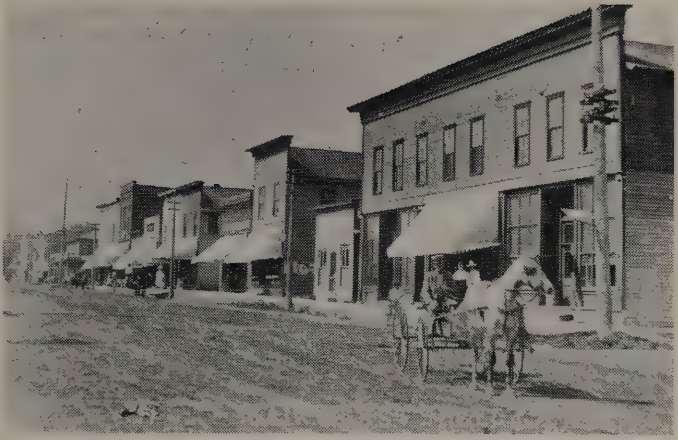
Shell Rock Hatchery Inc.

One Chick or a Million

Any Thing in Poultry Service

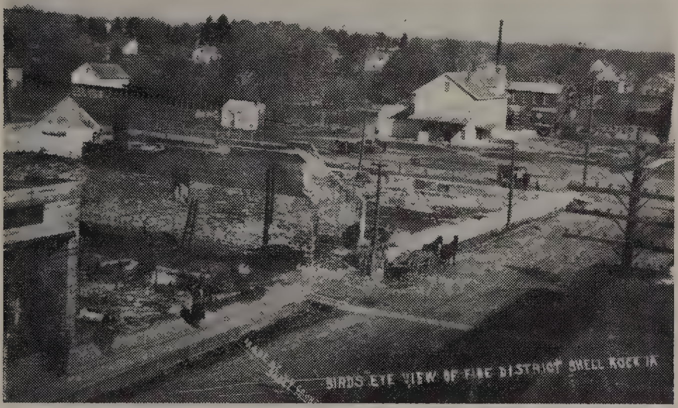
and Supplies

Phone 180 Shell Rock Hatchery



View of the main street (Cherry Street) in Shell Rock
Before the fire

fall of 1854 and the plat was recorded on March 29, 1855.



After the fire of October 19, 1908 in Shell Rock

The first grist mill, a 30′ x 40′ structure three stories high, was erected by Mr. Adair on the west side of the Shell Rock River in 1856 and commenced operations in 1857. This became known as the Roller Mills and the last owner was Willard F. Brown who acquired the mill in 1891. The building was finally sold and dismantled.

The present Shell Rock Grain & Milling Company was originally known as the Rockland Mill at the time of its construction. It was built by George W. Adair and Emanuel Metzger on the east side of the river in 1867-68. It was four stories high and the source of the original power was the Shell Rock River. The cost of this mill, made mostly of black walnut and hard maple, was $18,000. The present owner is James Parsons, and he and his son, James, are still operating the mill. Originally this was a flour mill and great quantities were processed here. Besides flour, much corn meal, rye flours and buckwheat flour were ground. The mill ceased operations pertaining to cereal products in 1944. Today they are engaged wholly in the processing of grains for use as livestock feeding, grinding, mixing and supplementing.

RAILROADS: Before there were railroads in Iowa the state was covered with a network of stage coach lines, the closest route to Shell Rock Township in 1856 being from Cedar Rapids to Cedar Falls. Stages were op-

CONGRATULATIONS

From The

Friendly Store

BOOMHOWERS

Shell Rock **Phone 45**

Schuldt Chevrolet Co.

CHEVROLET

Shell Rock Iowa

SHELL ROCK NEWS

And New Hartford Chronicle

W. G. & H. L. Vanderburg, Publishers

Shell Rock **Iowa**

HITCHCOCK & PRUIN

Auto Body Rebuilding

Office Phone 134 **Shell Rock, Iowa**

SHELL ROCK GRAIN & MILLING CO.

FEED — GRAIN — SALT

Phone 76 **Shell Rock, Iowa**

erated with regularity and merchandise was transported in wagons over the same roads. In 1871 the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad built its line through a part of Butler County, passing through Shell Rock. The Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad leased the B. C. R. & N. Roalroad after having obtained the majority of its common stock on June 1, 1902. The lease was to run for 999 years. Assigned agents for this railroad in Shell Rock have been Ed Ross, Ed Latham, and the present agent, Elton M. Turner. L. C. (Dad) Bowen served the railroad for 36 years, most of the time as section foreman.

What is now known as the Chicago Great Western Railroad was graded through by the Iowa and Pacific Railroad in 1875. The company failed however, and the road came into possession of the Dubuque and Dakota Railroad Company, composed of capitalists in Dubuque. In 1879 the track was laid and trains were running through Butler County from east to west. In January 1887 the Minnesota and Northwestern Railroad (predecessor of the Chicago Great Western Railway Company) purchased the line extending from Sumner, Iowa to Hampton, Iowa, a distance of 63 miles, from the Dubuque and Dakota Railroad. Through service on the Oelwein-Clarion line was started February 1, 1904.

Churches

METHODIST: The Methodist Church was organized June 26, 1855, the first religious organization in Butler County. The first religious services were administered at the home of G. W. Adair in the fall of 1854 followed by meetings at the home of Hiram Ross. The first minister was Rev. Hiram J. Burley assisted by Rev. E. Kendal and Rev. Abraham Myers. The first church was erected in 1856. Signers of the Articles of Incorporation in 1861 and 1871 were G. W. Adair; I. J. Smim; Alexander Glenn; J. J. Moore; H. L. Sweitzer; William Adair; John Leverich; E. W. Metzger; Abraham Myers; H. D. Hunt and William Stewart.

View of the Shell Rock River and dam
Looking northward from the bridge

A new church was erected in 1872, but burned in 1898. Another church was erected and dedicated on November 27, 1898. The pastor since June 1950 has been Rev. Roger Tappmeyer. The church has a junior choir and an adult choir, Mrs. Floyd Epley being their

Shell Rock Gravel Co., Inc.

★ Ready Mix Concrete

★ Agricultural Limestone

★ Crushed Rock

★ Washed Sand and Gravel

★ Excavating of all kinds

Shell Rock, Iowa Phone 168

ECLIPSE LUMBER CO.

COMPLETE ONE STOP SERVICE

Eclipse 50 Years Old

Butler County 100 Years

DON LEIN, Mgr.

Phone 126 Shell Rock, Iowa

WITT LUMBER COMPANY

Building Material, Coal, Grain

Shell Rock — Iowa

director. Some of the members who have entered full time Christian service are Glenn Rowley, now deceased; Carl Allen; Leland Elms; Herman Hunt; Harold Nieman and Harry Terrell.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH was organized in Shell Rock on January 18, 1864, by Rev. Samuel Sill, assisted by Rev. William Wood. The members were Mary E. Sill, Manzo Best, Emily L. Best, Roxy Couch, Minerva Couch, James Chaffin, Deborah Chaffin, J. W. Whittaker and Nancy Whittaker, Serepta Copeland and Fanny Helason. The first officers were Rev. Samuel Sill, pastor; Menzo Best, deacon; J. W. Whittaker, clerk. The first religious services of the denomination were held in 1858 in O. L. Eastman's stone building on Main Street by Rev. I. R. Dean, a brother of Mrs. S. Rice.

The church was erected, and dedicated free of debt in 1872, and several years later a bell was purchased. The Womans Mission Circle was organized in 1887 and in 1892 the B.Y.P.U. was founded.

Rev. H. H. Clouse, son of one of our early pastors, went out as a missionary to the Kiowa Indians in the United States. Within the last few years, two young people from the First Baptist Church have gone to the foreign field as missionaries. They are Rev. Ward Harris Jr., who is working in French Equitorial Africa and Miss Norma Lee Yarcho who is serving in Chiengmai, North Thailand.

The present pastor of the Baptist Church is Rev. Donald Worden.

HOLY NAME CATHOLIC CHURCH: The Holy Sacrifice of Mass was first read in Shell Rock in the home of Michael McCormick by Father John Shields in 1856. From that time until 1891, Mass was read from time to time by neighboring priests in private home of members, but usually in the home of Michael McCormick.

In 1891 land was donated by Mr. McCormick and through the efforts of Father B. W. Coyle, a church was built by the people, some of whom were James, Peter and Albert Heery; John and Patrick Drumm; Michael McCormick; Dennis Holland; William Leary; Martin Gleason; Thomas McCarty; Joseph Walker; William Rafferty; Patrick McNamara; Nicholas Pray; John Flynn; Joseph Cantwell and Dennis Evans. It was named Holy Name Church and continued as a Mission to St. Mary's in Waverly until the year 1947, when it was made a parish.

In 1928 the Altar and Rosary Society was organized under the directorship of Father T. R. Collins. The first president was Mrs. Mary Shank; Sec'y., Mrs. James Carter. The present officers in 1956 are: President, Mrs. Randall Courbat; Vice-President, Mrs. Wayne Weinberg and Mrs. James Parsons Jr.; Sec'y.-Treas., Mrs. Reuben Schultz.

In 1955, Father Walsh organized the Society of the Holy Name of Jesus, with John Anholt as president, Alvin Kilmesh as Vice-President, and Harold Sutton as Secretary.

In the fall of 1955, a vacant lot adjoining the church was purchased and plans are being formed for expansion and remodeling. The 1956 trustees of the church are John Anholt and Harold Sutton.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH. In November 1937, Rev. Edmund Freese began conducting services for five families in an upstairs hall. He continued his work here while serving as pastor of St. John's congregation at Finchford until 1942, when he accepted a call to another church. Rev. Harold Roschke of Waverly served as vacancy pastor until July 4, 1943, when Rev. R. J. Gutknecht was installed. In October 1943, a congregation was organized with about 50 baptized members. The officers chosen were: Pres., Herman Schug; Recording Sec'y., Theodore Wente; Trustees, John Heeren and Herbert Lewis; Deacons, Herman Schug and Harold Refshauge; Treas., Herbert Lewis; Financial Sec'y., Chris Hagen.

On May 18, 1939, the first Ladies Aid met at the home of Mrs. Lloyd Grapp with nine ladies present. A few years later it was organized with Mrs. Edna Refshauge as president; Mrs. Grace Winkey, Vice-Pres.; and Mrs. Bertha Hagen, Sec'y.-Treas.

In the fall of 1937 the Sunday School was organized with Herman Schug as Superintendent. The Young People's Society was also formed the same fall.

In 1944 a business building was purchased where services were held until the present new church was completed. In October 1949 the cornerstone of our new church was laid. The building was dedicated February 19, 1950, with Rev. A. F. Lindner of Hampton delivering the dedication sermon. The parsonage was purchased in 1945. The present pastor is Rev. William Weber.

CHURCH OF CHRIST. On the evening of July 5, 1954, Evangelist Dale Wilhoit met with others interested in starting a Church of Christ in Shell Rock. The church was started with five charter members, Mr. and Mrs. Elton M. Turner, Mrs. Paul Gallmeyer, Juanita Turner and Arlyce Turner.

A student minister, John Heflin, was called to serve this new congregation, which met for a year in the basement of the Elton Turner residence. It was learned there was a church building in the country west of Shell Rock known as the Ebenezer Lutheran Church. The men in charge were willing that the Church of Christ in Shell Rock have this building. The church building was moved on rubber tired wheels 7¼ miles into Shell Rock. There it finally rested on a newly built basement foundation, and was dedicated October 9, 1955.

Thomas F. Ross has been the pastor since January 8, 1956. He has been in the ministry for eight years, and he and his family now reside in Shell Rock.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH: On June 22, 1955, a group of 23 Lutherans met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. Koester for the purpose of discussing the possibility of starting an American Lutheran Church in Shell

STOPPLEMOOR SUPER SERVICE

Phone 190 **Shell Rock, Iowa**

Rock. Scripture reading and prayer were read by Ernest J. Koester, who was appointed by Justin Winkey and approved to act in the capacity of chairman. Mr. Koester appointed Kenneth Jebe temporary secretary. All present were in favor of starting a church.

The chairman appointed J. C. Winkey, Gordon Shipman, Adam Roettenbacher and John Dornbusch to contact the District President and present the urgent need for a church in Shell Rock.

After several meetings of the American Lutheran Church development group, Dr. Siefkes, District President, announced that everything had been cleared for organization. The Constitution and By-laws were read and adopted, together with the name of Faith Lutheran Church. Officers were elected as follows; Ernest J. Koeester, chairman; Kenneth Jebe and J. C. Winkey, trustees; Kenneth Jebe, Treasurer; Gordon Shipman, Sec'y.; John Dornbusch and A. K. Roettenbacher, deacons. Dr. John Hiltner of Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, was the first acting pastor.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Jebe graciously proferred their Chapel and its facilities gratis to the congregation. The first Council meeting was held there on September 20, 1955. On Sunday, September 25, 1955, 128 persons crowded the Faith Lutheran Church at its first service in the Jebe Chapel. A beautiful, complete church service was conducted by Dr. John Hiltner. The altar was appointed with crucifix, candles and lovely flowers, and special music was furnished. Tense excitement preceded and pervaded the rich and rare experience of pioneering a new church.

Organizations in immediate action include, the Sunday School of 50 members with Mrs. A. K. Roettenbacher, Superintendent, and Mary Shimek, Mattie Harms, Leann Dornbusch and Betty Jacobs, teachers; Faith Lutheran Guild with 22 members, whose officers include Mrs. Justin Winkey, chairman; Mrs. Florence Petersen, vice chairman; Mrs. Gordon Shipman, secretary; Mrs. Fred Dettmer, treasurer; and by appointment, Mrs. Ernest J. Koester, chaplain and organizer. Joyce Pohl is church pianist.

The choir has approximately 18 members. Mrs. Ernest J. Koester is director. Accompanists are Joan Pohl, Eleanor Albers and Mary Shimek.

The Luther League, a young people's organization named Marjorie Dettmer as president.

A building committee has been appointed naming S. B. Holtkamp chairman, and including Will Albers, Mrs. Florence Petersen, Fred Dettmer, secretary; John Heeren, Mrs. John Dornbusch, Stanley Pohl and Gerald Harken. Five lots have been purchased and plans are approved to build a brick-faced church.

On April 8, 1956, the congregation voted a call to be given to Otto Reitz, who will be graduated from the Seminary in Dubuque in June, to serve our congregation and that of Messiah Lutheran at Janesville, as full time pastor. Dr. John Hiltner cannot continue as pastor because of his work at Wartburg College which eliminates a dual office.

SHELL ROCK NEWS: Under the title, The Shell Rock Enterprise, this newspaper was established on August 23, 1872, by J. H. Boomer & Co., editors and proprietors. Since that time the ownership has changed many times. The title of the paper was changed to the Shell Rock News in 1875-76, and the firm name became Lucas and Hazlet. After numerous changes of ownership since that time, the property is now owned and operated by Willis and Helen L. Vanderburg, who purchased the same on August 1, 1947.

ELECTRIC SERVICE: Shell Rock streets were lighted by kerosene street lamps until electric service was first supplied to Shell Rock by W. C. Wilson in the spirng of 1895. The history of the early days of his plant is one of perseverance and the determination of a young farm boy who had the courage to embark upon a new enterprise without capital or resources. He acquired, with a total cash asset of $45.00, the building formerly occupied by the woolen mill, and 200 square inches of water rights for power from the mill dam. An electric light plant was erected on the site of the old woolen mill, which improvement, with the water rights, cost about fifteen thousand dollars. The first two generators were 25 K.W. Bi-Polar Edisons, which were coupled to the water turbine with rope belts. After the original plant had been in operation for thirty days the river had gone down, and Mr. Wilson was forced to provide a steam boiler and an 80 H.P. Corliss engine for standby service. Other owners have been William Toll and Ray Betts; Uria and W. W. Richards.

Ray Mason purchased the property in 1914. At this time the plant was operated from dusk until midnight, the only load being lighting. Shortly after this D. L. Van Vlack, who operated a meat market, purchased a sausage grinder with motor attached. This was the first power load in Shell Rock. It was agreed at this time that whenever they wished to grind meat, the plant would be started.

The next power load was the Shell Rock News, whose gasoline engines had failed and they wished to replace them with electric motors. It was also understood the plant would be started whenever they wished service on Wednesday. Soon two or three washing machines were purchased, being driven with electric motors, so it was agreed the plant would run Monday mornings. Some of the ladies wished to iron with electric irons so it was agreed power would be furnished Tuesday mornings for ironing day. This, of course, was the starting of continuous service—Monday, wash day; Tuesday, ironing day; Wednesday to get out the Shell Rock News. It was also the starting of the use of electric service in Shell Rock for other than lighting which eventually demanded 24 hour service which of course was in effect at the time the property was sold in 1916 to the Cedar Valley Electric Company. Mr. Mason continued as manager until 1919 at which time he was transferred to Hampton. F. G. Kocher became manager in 1919, later moving to Clarksville as manager in 1929. Since the merging of several properties in 1926, the company has been known as the Iowa Public Service Co.

F. C. McCann, who had been an employee of the company since 1921, served as local manager of the Shell Rock District from May 1929 to June 1955 at which time he retired. Kenneth Albaugh is now the local manager of the Iowa Public Service Company.

EDUCATIONAL: The first school in Shell Rock was taught by Mrs. Nancy McAllister in a room of the dwelling of Ebenezer Walter in the summer of 1855. The Methodist Church was afterward used for school purposes, and Ozro R. Newcomb taught the second term. In the early days Mrs. Carter conducted what was called a "select school" in the upper room of what was known as Newcomb and Carter's Store. According to Butler County History of 1883, a schoolhouse was erected on each side of the river in 1862. These were used until 1874 when a two-room building was erected on the east side of the river located at the western terminal of Grove Street, and a three room building was erected on the west side where the Kline Shipman residence is now located. Each side at that time was a separate school district.

About 1900 the building on the east side burned, but was soon rebuilt. The new building was eventually disposed of and moved to Cherry Street where it is now used as a dry cleaning establishment.

The first graduating class in the Shell Rock High School in the year 1895 consisted of the following: Burnette Bowen, Ida Porter, Ida West, Margaret Hodsdon, Will Leverich, Mabel Dewey, Harriet Mansfield, Ethlyn Dewey, Margaret Brace; Pearl Wightman, Clyde Conn, Lee Graham and Will West. Frank Bement was Superintendent. Commencement was held in the Opera House on June 29, 1895. On February 4, 1898 the schoolhouse on the west side burned, and school was held in the Opera House. A new and modern school building of brick and stone was erected on the east side of the river in 1899, the structure being three stories and basement.

On July 26, 1916, a contract was let to G. L. Smith, Waterloo, Iowa, for a new section adjoining the school building. During construction part of the students went to school in the Baptist Church basement. Board members in 1916 were Carl Hummell, H. W. Coster, W. W. Richards, F. C. Harmon and E. N. Neal. J. R. Jamison was secretary and A. R. McCook, Superintendent.

On May 13, 1948, the home economics room and gymnasium of the school was badly damaged as a result of fire. However, re-building and redecorating was completed and smoke damaged rooms were clean and attractive when school opened in September 1948.

In August 1951, a bond issue was voted for an $85,000 addition to our school building. Ben Mulford Enterprises got the contract for the building and a one story structure facing Adair Street was completed in October 1952.

The school takes part in declamatory contests each year, and has a band to be proud of. They have boys and girls basketball teams as well as a baseball team. They have had a hot lunch program for a good many years.

E. W. Harder is the present Superintendent, and Ivan Kibbie, the Principal. The present directors are: Mansfield Witt, Pres.; Wayne Martin, Arthur Korth, S. B. (Barney) Holtkamp, Betty (Mrs. Rufus) Epley.

PHYSICIANS: Dr. Bruce Ensley came to Shell Rock in 1907 and retired in 1948. However, he still resides in Shell Rock.

Dr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Barbour were welcomed to Shell Rock by an Open House reception held by the Shell Rock Community Club at his offices on June 30, 1954. The public was cordially invited and light refreshments were served by representatives of the Ladies Aids of all the Shell Rock churches acting as hostesses.

DENTISTS: Dr. M. B. Chesebro received his Degree, Doctor of Dental Surgery, from Northwestern University in June 1900, and located in Shell Rock, opening an office over the present Jamison & Son Hardware Store. He has continued to serve the community for the past 56 years and is still in active practice.

Dr. Wayne C. Martin is a retired dentist now residing in Shell Rock. He was graduated from Dental College and practiced in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and later in Long Beach, Calif. Dr. Martin retired in 1941.

Friends and acquaitances of Dr. Harland Apfel, a native son of Shell Rock, will be interested to know he has received acclaim in dental circles in the United States, England, France, Germany, Spain and Mexico, since 1948, for contributing to modern science the transplantation of tooth buds from one position in the mouth to another. He transplants the "buds" of wisdom teeth to fill gaps left by extractions of regular molars. The main importance of the work is to teen-agers, in preventing the crippling of the dental arch. Dental surgeons throughout the country have accepted the technique as routine procedure. He limits his practice to oral surgery. At present Dr. Apfel is the Chief of Staff, Dental Section of the Los Angeles Harbor General Hospital, and resides in San Pedro, Calif.

SHELL ROCK BAND: One of the most famous of all Iowa bands in the "Gay Nineties" was the town band at Shell Rock. Members of the original unit were: Ed Jones, Jim Carter, Will Brown, Charles Towne, Del Clawson, Bunk Walters, Ezra Moyer, Art Simmons, Herb Gould, Hank Leverich, Alfred Apfel and Walter Apfel, in addition to director Thorpe. The old band never owned a baton. The signal "Ready, play," started the numbers, and nobody beat time. Most popular were the John Sousa marches.

WOMENS RELIEF CORPS. The Harding W.R.C. No. 390, Auxiliary to the G.A.R., was instituted September 23, 1925, and organized October 31, 1925, with 39 members. The first president was Ona Daniels; Sen. V.P., Millie Renning; Jr. V.P., Camilla Johnson; Chap., Mae Renning; Musician, Melinda Weidman; Pat. Inst., Karren Elsham; Press Corres., Augusta Hilmer; Treas., Delilah Amick; Sec'y., Queen Zeek; Conductor, Bessie Pettijohn; Ass't. Con., Millie Parriot; Guard, Lulu Elwell; Ass't. Guard, Lizzie Conrad; Color bearers, Emma Sweitzer, Mabel Schmitz, Marion McGregor and Eva (Slight) Lebeck.

AMERICAN LEGION: On March 15, 1921, a group of veterans met at the City Hall in Shell Rock to form the Dee Avery Post No. 393, named in honor of Dee Avery, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Avery, who died October 10, 1918 at Roisel, France. The first officers were George Renning, Post Commander; George Hughes, Post Adjutant; Harry Ward, Treasurer; E. V. Johnson, Service Officer; H. E. Yarcho, Chaplain; F. G. Kocher, Historian; James Stevenson, Sergeant at Arms.

In 1945 the name of the Post was changed to Avery-Slight Post in memory of Russell Slight, a marine corporal, who was the first Shell Rock boy to be killed in action during World War II. Russell was the son of Mrs. Eva Lebeck and M. A. Slight and was killed on Saipan, June 16, 1944.

Other Gold Star boys were Raymond Gersema, P.F.C., the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Gersema, who lost his life on Saipan on August 17, 1945. Richard Eggleston, son of Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Eggleston, a staff sergeant in the army, served in the European Theatre and African Campaign, and died at Camp Shelby, Miss., on January 16, 1944. Willard Ogden Van Alst, son of Mrs. Lizzie Scoles, was a marine corporal who died in a Japanese prison camp on November 10, 1942.

Military services were conducted at Shell Rock on July 1, 1951 for Private Laverne N. (Corky) Smith, who was the first Iowa casualty of the Korean War. Laverne served in the army under Major General Dean and was killed in battle at Teajon on the Kum river, on February 24, 1951. He was the son of the late Harry Smith and Mrs. Nell Smith. His mother received the Silver Star which Laverne was awarded posthumously for gallantry in action; also the Purple Heart.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY to Avery-Slight Post was organized in Shell Rock in 1921 with 38 charter members. The first president was Mrs. Charles Renning. One of their many projects was started in 1946, when the officers, with the help of others, started to collect material for a Service Record Book of World War II. This book was completed in March 1947, and when the books were published one was given to each Gold Star mother, to the library, school, and to each church in Shell Rock.

Gold Star mothers, members of this Auxiliary, are Mrs. Lena Ooster, now deceased; Mrs. Mable Metzgar; Mrs. Eva Lebeck; Mrs. Sena Gersema; Mrs. Elizabeth Scoles and Mrs. Nell Smith.

AMVETS AND AUXILIARY—POST 109. Through the efforts of Ben Kroma and the Waverly Amvets Post, arrangements were made to form a Post in Shell Rock on October 28, 1947. Members who signed the charter were Ben Kroma, Rev. George Baker, Charles Decker, Earl Kellog, Vernal Kimball, Eldon Renning, Carl Clemmens, Verlin Slight, Paul McGregor, Carl Cutler, Carl Heine and Floyd Woods. Just one month later, in November 1947, the Shell Rock Amvet Auxiliary to the Post received it's National charter.

The Post has erected a new modern building with a well equipped kitchen.

Ben Kroma was the first Commander, while in 1956 Travis Moffitt is filling out the year as Commander, because of the resignation of Don Lein, who has moved elsewhere. Syble Kroma was the first president of the Amvet Auxiliary.

THE SHELL ROCK BOOK REVIEW CLUB was organized in August 1941 at the home of Mrs. Zatha Weems. The membership comprised of the following ladies; Thelma Baltzer, Leora Bandura, Bernice Bicknese, Evelyn Brockway, Helen Busching, Mary Chambers, Jane Coffman, Grace Ehlert, Marie Ensley, Justine Epley, Verna Farran, Eva Gibson, Carolyn Jacobson, Alice Kelly, Thelma Murray, Effie Pilson, Gladys Ressler, Almeda Thomsen, Cecile Thompson, Zatha Weems and Helen Zurbriggan. The first officers of the organization were: Pres., Verna Farran, Sec'y.-Treas., Cecile Thompson. The officers at this time are Dorothy Shipman, Pres.; Coleen Holley, Sec'y.-Treas.; Kate Witt, V-Pres.; Mrs. Ivan Kibbie and Mrs. Eugene Brown, Program Chairman.

THE SHELL ROCK PUBLIC LIBRARY was started in January 1930, with the following officers elected: Dr. M. B. Chesebro, Pres.; Miss Naoma Hunter, Sec'y.; W. C. Kimball, Treas. An executive board consisting of one member from each contributing organization was elected as follows: Mrs. M. B. Chesebro, Congregationalist; A. D. Scougal, Methodist; Mrs. T. E. Horner, W.C.T.U.; Fred O. Newcomb, Baptist; Mrs Pearl Hunt, Rural Mothers' Club; Mrs Cliff Myers, Know Your Neighbor Club; Mrs. Flora McInroy, Eastern Star; Mrs. C. C. Hickle, M. E. Church; Mrs. Mary Shank, Home Makers' Club; R. K. Thompson, Public Schools.

Miss Gladys Ressler was appointed Librarian at the founding of the library, and served most faithfully until April 1947, when she resigned to accept full employment elsewhere. Mrs. Herbert Chambers was appointed to take her place and is still Librarian.

The present Library Board is: Mrs. Wayne Martin, Pres.; Mrs. Bruce Hickle, Sec'y.-Treas.; Miss Euseba Bowen, V. President. Others on the board are Mrs. Keith Baltzer; Rev. Roger Tappmeyer; Mrs. Clyde Williams; Mrs. Esther Wilson; Mrs. Floyd Epley; Mrs. John Holley.

THE SHELL ROCK BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMAN'S CLUB was organized by Helen Vanderburg, then First Vice President of the State Federation. The charter was presented on the evening of October 31, 1947, to June Peterson Wittig, our first president. There were 11 charter members. Their major project continues to be Girl Scouts. Helen Vanderburg, leader, started with 5 girls and 18 brownies. The group has now grown to almost 60 girls.

The present officers are Doris Jones, Pres.; Edna Soash, Cor. Sec'y.; Florence Petersen, Treas.; Fern Best, Recording Secretary.

THE BOY SCOUT organization in Shell Rock consists of 38 cubs, 17 scouts and 16 explorers. Arthur Korth is Cub Master; Glenn Card, Scout Master; C. C. Renning, Explorer Advisor.

THE SHELL ROCK LIONS CLUB charter presentation banquet was held in the high school auditorium in November 1955. There were 28 charter members. Officers were: Pres., Gordon Peterson; First V. Pres., Ken Jebe; Second V. Pres., Donald Lein; Third V. Pres., Minor Schuldt; Sec'y., Kenneth Albaugh; Treas., Kline Shipman; Lion Tamer, Charles Osweiler; Tail Twister, Kenneth Kuhn; Directors, Lloyd Gibson, Mel Alsin, John Brant and Clarence Busching.

THE SHELL ROCK BUSINESS MENS' ASSOCIATION is an active group with the following officers: Phil Wagner, Pres., Clyde Williams, Sec'y., and Kline Shipman, Treas.

MASONIC: Escallop Lodge No. 261, A. F. & A. M., was organized April 22, 1869. First officers were: Asa Lowe, W. M.; Julius Preston, S. W.; G. C. Hawley, J. W.; E W Metzger, Treas.; J. G. Scoby, Sec'y; O. S. Eastman, S. D.; Charles Hitchcock, J. D.; Alonzo Coastes, Tyler.

Shell Rock Chapter No. 373, Order of the Eastern Star was organized on February 22, 1904 with 25 members.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS: Shell Rock Lodge No. 270, I.O.O.F., was organized January 26, 1874, with the following officers: F. Mason, N. G.; R. D. Prescott, V. G.; L. F. Bristol, Sec'y.; J. D. Powers, Treas.; J. Mullen, O. G.; J. H. Meade, I. G.

Zora Rebekah Lodge No. 189 was instituted in Shell Rock on March 16, 1893 The present Noble Grand is Dorothy (Mrs. Vernon) Garner.

BAR: George R. Blake opened an office in Shell Rock for the general practice of law in 1929. John H. Holley of Carroll County, Iowa, joined Mr. Blake in 1950, and the firm has since been known as Blake & Holley.

The main street (Cherry Street) of Shell Rock in the early 1940's

FURNITURE: The Whitaker Furniture Company began business on March 29, 1894, and the family continued the business into the 54th year, until they sold to Jebe's in 1947. Jebe's also have a Funeral Home in connection with their furniture business..

HARDWARE: J. R. Jamison started a hardware store in 1901, and his son, Harl Jamison is still in business at this location, the name of the firm being Jamison & Son.

Henry and Walter Renning purchased a hardware store from Henry Brown in 1920, and became known as the Renning Hardware. Walter acquired full interest some years later, and Clyde Pettijohn became a partner in 1946. On January 1, 1956, Clyde purchased Mr. Renning's interest and is now the sole owner, the firm being known as Pettijohn Hardware.

BARBERS: Henry Sinkey began barbering in Shell Rock in 1904 and retired in 1945, after 41 years in business. George Young was also a barber here for many years.

Mel Webrand came to Shell Rock in March 1930, and is still in business.

Kenneth Kuhn began a barber shop in Shell Rock in 1947. He purchased his building in 1950.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE: Lloyd and Bernice Boomhower came to Shell Rock, March 15, 1948, having purchased the General Store. In the fall of 1955 the stock of yard goods and notions were sold to Wagner Variety Store and their place of business is now known as Boomhowers Grocery.

GROCERS: Clarence H. Busching purchased his grocery business in 1927, and is still operating the Busching Grocery.

Adam and Marcella Roettenbacher held their formal opening of their remodelled grocery store and locker plant on September 17, and 18, in 1948. They transact business under the name of Economy Market.

Mark and Edna Dana purchased their grocery business from Hugh and Pearl Hickle in August 1953. Former owners were Stevenson Bros., James Mullen, now deceased, and August Yarcho, now deceased.

EPLEY BROS. HYBRIDS INC.: The seed corn business has been carried through three generations of the Epley family, and the original plant building was constructed in 1936. The Epley Bros., Floyd and Kenneth, now have available 11 different numbers of seed corn and an experimental program is vigorously pursued. Seed oats have been added and chemical fertilizer has been handled since it first became an important factor.

BROOKS GRAVEL: In 1920 William Brooks started to operate a sand and gravel business on property purchased in 1914. Mr. Brooks retired in 1938 and his sons have continued the operation of the business since that time, making 36 years of continuous operation.

SHELL ROCK GRAVEL CO. INC.: and SHELL ROCK LIME CO. INC. Alvy Polmateer commenced his gravel business in 1937. The first lime quarry near Shell Rock was purchased in 1946. A cement plant was erected in 1947, and in 1948 the company started selling ready mix cement. The companies incorporated in 1951.

THOMPSON GRAVEL CO.: Charles R. Thompson started his gravel business in 1923, doing contract road work and selling commercial lime and crushed rock. He graveled many miles of County and State roads, discontinuing the business in 1930.

TILE COMPANY: The Butler-Bremer Tile Co opened their plant on the grounds of the Brooks Gravel Co. in 1955. The manufacture of five inch to twelve inch tile was started in June 1955, and this product is sold direct to the consumer.

PRODUCE: Since August 1911, the produce business on the east side of the river has been operated, wholly or in partnership, by Miles B (Pat) Williams. In 1953 Mr. Williams (Pat Sr.) as he has always been known, retired from active business and left the operation to two of his sons, Rex and Patterson (Pat Jr.).

GARAGES: The Renning Motor Company started in business on March 1, 1920, having been in this same location for the past 36 years. G. H. (Huck) Renning and G. E. (Sam) Cain purchased the stock of parts and tools from W. C. Wilson and Ora Hyndman, but in 1929 G. E. Cain sold his interest to G. H. Renning, who then purchased the building. Robert Stevenson is now a partner. They sell the Ford line of cars and have one of the best equipped service departments in this area.

The Schuldt Chevrolet Company is operated by Mike Schuldt. This property formerly belonged to V. L. Wilson, now deceased.

THE FARMERS SUPPLY COMPANY was opened for business by Dan E. Jerolaman in the spring of 1934, the sales being confined to feeds, fertilizer, farm seeds, feeding equipment and allied lines. On January 1, 1944, the John Deere line of farm equipment was added. 1956 is their 23rd year of continuous operation in Shell Rock.

OIL: The Cities Service Oil Station, also known as Stopplemoor's Super Service is operated by Fred Stopplemoor. Raymond Ball operates the tank truck.

The Standard Service Station, known as Cain's Standard Service is operated by Charles (Chuck) Cain.

The D-X Service Station, known as Johnson's D-X Station is operated by Henry Johnson, who also runs the tank truck.

F. O. Best, distributor of petroleum products, has been in the Standard Oil tank truck business since March 1, 1920, succeeding his father, D. P. Best, who sold the first Standard Oil products in Shell Rock. Mr. Best will retire as of July 1, 1956, thus completing, together with his father, 48 years of continuous service for the Standard Oil Co. in Shell Rock.

Gilbert Neal, distributor of petroleum products has been in business for 18 years in this area. In 1950 he became a jobber for the Deep Rock Oil Company, and now continues this service, operating the tank truck in conjunction with his bulk plant and service station in Waverly.

Charles R. Thompson erected a service station in 1928, on Highway No. 3, also acquiring, over a period of time, 16 stations in other towns. In 1928 he started erecting a bulk station in Shell Rock, which at this time is leased to the Cities Service Oil Co., on royalty. Mr. Thompson still owns the bulk tanks, but has disposed of the service stations, with the exception of the one at Aredale.

PAINTERS AND INTERIOR DECORATORS: Frank K. Clouse became a painter and interior decorator and followed this work for over 50 years, retiring in 1952. The first house painted by him is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Newell.

Fred Willson came to Shell Rock in 1922 and started painting in 1923. He is still actively engaged in the business.

Robert Greenlee is one of our younger painters who started in 1952, and is doing exceptionally well.

DAIRY: Roy Williams began his dairy business in 1908 and continued for 42 years, retiring in 1950. Mr. William's youngest son, Clyde, purchased the dairy and has added a pasteurizer, homogenizer and modern bottling and cooling equipment.

THE SECURITY STATE BANK of Shell Rock provides the community with adequate banking facilities. Lloyd L. Gibson is President, Clarence Schoenbeck, V. Pres., Ernest Koester, Cashier and Kline Shipman, Assistant Cashier.

CONTRACTORS: Ralph Yost began working the contracting business in 1928. Since World War II he has been located in Shell Rock.

Ezra Olmstead is one of our contractors who has been in business for many years.

Joe DeWitt, who learned much of his trade from his father, the late Ben DeWitt, has been a contractor in Shell Rock for a number of years.

CAFES: Roy and Ervie Scoles purchased the Blue Arrow Cafe from Leslie and Mary Smith on Jan. 1, 1950, and are still at the same location.

Cain's Garden Cafe has been operated by Dale Cain since 1949.

Jerry's Lunch is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Poster. The Posters came from New York City about June 1, 1955.

SHOES & SPORTING GOODS: Henry Negan opened the business known as Hank's Shoe Shop on Jan. 1, 1955. He has an attractive store, is equipped to do shoe repairing, and handles a complete line of shoes as well as sporting goods.

BEAUTY SHOPS: Mary Whitaker operates her beauty shop in the building formerly known as the Shell Theatre.

Mrs. Irene Gleason has had a beauty shop in the building formerly occupied by Hulda's since June 20 1955.

RADIO & TV: Cain's Radio and TV has been owned and operated by Galdwin Cain for several years.

Don Whitaker has been in the floor tile business since World War II. He also sells and installs television.

WELDING: Glen P. (Scrap) Thompson started welding in Shell Rock in 1933. With the able assistance of F. C. (Fritz) Thompson, welder and George Ward, blacksmith, he has continued this business.

THE WITT LUMBER COMPANY is owned and operated by Mansfield Witt.

THE ECLIPSE LUMBER COMPANY is operated by Claude Smith, who has been the manager since early in 1956.

The SHELL ROCK HATCHERY has been in Shell Rock many years, the manager being A. C. Conrad.

THE SHELL ROCK NURSING HOME is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Osweiler.

THE WAGNER VARIETY: Phil Wagner purchased the V & A Variety owned by Vernal and Arlene Kimball, and started his business in Shell Rock Sept. 15, 1955.

TELEPHONE: George and Emma Hughes have given this area very efficient phone service for many years.

THE SPOT is owned and operated by J. L. Thompson.

POST OFFICE: Herrill Williams, veteran of World War II, is our local Postmaster.

THE NU-WAY CLEANERS is managed by Robert Srigley.

THE HITCHCOCK AND PRUIN BODY SHOP is one of our newer firms enjoying a nice business.

ALLIED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, formerly known as the Grant Bros., are engaged in ditching, excavating and lime spreading.

THE MOTEL in Shell Rock is owned and operated by Leslie Bentley.

BELGIAN HORSES: The people in this area are proud of the beautiful Belgian horses owned by Ray T. Bohan who is farming in this township. He is one of the exhibitors of Belgian horses in the National Belgian Show held in conjunction with the National Dairy Cattle Congress in Waterloo, as well as other places. Mr. Bohan has won hundreds of ribbons and many trophies for his beautiful horses.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Henry Apfel was one of our early photographers and painters. He established the first photograph gallery in Shell Rock in 1875. One of his paintings, known as Christ Before Pilate, hangs in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital at Waverly, Iowa. The painting is approximately 5 x 7 feet and portrays the Christ, Pilate, and as many as twenty-five or thirty other characters.

The painting of the fire of 1908 at Shell Rock was done by Henry Apfel also, and at this time may be viewed in the office of the Iowa Public Service Company in Shell Rock.

JULIUS FRANK WEBB came to Shell Rock in 1896, and operated a photograph gallery until his death. His daughter, Lucy Webb, continued the business until she retired.

HOTEL: Our last hotel, The Wabeek, was a two-story brick building owned and operated by John Hohl, a native of Switzerland. He arrived in Shell Rock on June 18, 1912 and he and his wife had a reputation for excellent chicken dinners and good service. They are now deceased.

The building has been dismantled and will be replaced by a Memorial Hall and Library.

Jefferson Township

By Mrs. Glen P. Thompson

Township 91 north, range 16 west in Butler County is known as Jefferson Township. Its only river is the West Fork, which enters the township in section 36. The land in the township is rolling, mostly sloping to the south and east. The wild prairie of pioneer times was beautiful to behold with its waving grass, several species of roses, violets and many other wild flowers.

On November 30, 1853, five entries of land in the township were made by the following persons: Frederic Feddeke; Frederick and Louis Kothe; August Meyer, and William Pewestorf. These were followed by entries on December 9, 1853, by John H. Nagle and Drederic Berlin.

The first settler in the township was H. E. Dawson who came in the fall of 1854. He was soon followed by James D. Taylor, William Hays, Wm. Mason, A. J. Case, Robert Armstrong, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Whitehead.

Butler Center

In 1853 Andrew Mullarkey and Col. Thomas entered the land upon which Butler Center was to be located, platted the village in 1855 and recorded the plan in 1856. Joe Santee came in 1856 and assisted in building the first log house. Mr. Pennock built the second log house in the village. The Butler Center steam sawmill was erected by Charles Stewart in 1856, the proprietor being Andrew Mullarky. The first sermon was delivered in Butler Center by Nathan Olmstead in this sawmill.

H. H. Margretz was the first postmaster in the Butler Center Postoffice established in 1856, the mail being received by carrier from Cedar Falls, once each week. He was also the first Justice of the Peace.

O. S. Levis erected the first general store in 1856, and later acquired a partner, Dan Mason, to whom he afterward sold. The first blacksmith in the town was William Wright. In 1857 H. H. Marsh, dentist, erected the third house in Butler Center; C. H. Chamberlain started a store; Dr. Shaw was the first practicing physician; Enoch George was a house carpenter; Thomas Bird built a general store in 1857. O. H. Peabird erected a residence. The first hotel was built by H. M. Martgretz in 1856. George A. Richmond became the first lawyer in the township in 1857. His large residence was later used as a hotel. F. Digman came in 1857 and opened a shoe shop to which he added dry goods and groceries. Orson Rice, lawyer, also came in 1857. William Haddock published the first newspaper, the Butler County Jeffersonian in Butler Center in 1860. It was later purchased by Martin Bailey and named Stars and Stripes.

CHURCHES: The Presbyterian Church was organized in Butler Center in 1873 by Rev. William Smith. The first members were James Barlow and wife; James Hunter and wife; W. C. Thompson and wife; Mr. B. J. Marrill and wife; Duncan McGregor and wife; Duncan Stewart and wife. Rev. Smith was succeeded in 1875 by Rev. John Gourley. Rev. Richard Merrill, an active worker in this church, was county superintendent of schools for a number of years. George M. Craig was the first superintendent of an organized Sabbath School in Butler Center in about 1864.

SCHOOLS: The first school in Butler Center was taught by Alzina Waters, in the Levis building. Martha Niece taught in the house erected by Enoch George. The Misses Ella and Margaret Mullarky were also teachers in Butler Center. A two-story frame building with two rooms was erected after the town became the county seat.

From 1860 to 1881, Butler Center was the county seat. After an election which decided upon the removal of the county seat to Allison, mostly because of the lack of railroads, Butler Center eventually became a ghost town with dilapidated buildings and deserted streets. There is little, if any, evidence today that this busy town ever existed. There is a cemetery, one mile east of the original town. The first burial therein was that of Jane Stewart, daughter of Chas. Stewart, in the summer of 1857; the next being that of his son, John Stewart, about ten days afterward. The third was Freddie Santee, son of Joe Santee and soon after, a child of Adam Conn.

Other early settlers in Jefferson Township were three brothers from Ireland, Thomas Thompson, N. E. Thompson and Noble A. Thompson; John Braden, who later became a casualty of the Civil War and whose body was buried in a grove west of the house on the farm where he lived; S. Williams; Jule Hale; Albert Cook; Frederick Berlin; P. E. Dunson; Henry Trotter; Samuel Williams; James A. Trotter; S. M. Baldwin; M. B. Speedy; John Biglin; Nathan Linn; William Van Vlack; R. W. Hunter; James Hall; D. A. McGregor; Frederick Toll and John Coster.

In 1857 the only settlers between Butler Center and Shell Rock were N. A. Thompson and Henry Trotter. The first house between the two towns was erected in 1856, on section 14, by Henry Trotter. The first marriage ceremony in the township, uniting Noble A. Thompson and Christina McGregor, was performed by Justice Bailey.

Coster

In 1956 Jefferson Township is completely rural. In the 1900's however, it boasted a "shopping center." After the business houses of Butler Center closed, the Coster community still flourished. John Coster, for whom the village of Coster was named, was the son of John and Louisa (Grove) Coster. When he brought his family to Jefferson Township from McHenry County, Illinois, in 1869, his only possessions were $8.00 in money, three horses and two cows. He became the owner of considerable land and livestock, and won many prizes and sweepstakes at local fairs with his Duroc Jersey hogs. Mr. Coster was Superintendent of Sunday School in the United Evangelical Church of Coster for over 27 years. He was township trustee for eleven consecutive years, and served as president of the Butler County Fair Association from 1904 to 1920, receiving a life membership in the Honorary Presidents Society.

Picture of Otis Courbat Creamery at Coster before the store part was built.

Various changes occurred in location, operators, and owners from the early 1900's until all was dismantled in Coster in the 1940's.

Isaac Hall operated a creamery on the site of the present Ted Smith farm. He also conducted a store in connection with his residence at that time. Mr. Hall was postmaster until the establishment of rural mail routes.

A load of cream on its way to Courbat Creamery at Coster

Otis F. Courbat bought the Hall creamery, dismantled it, and built a new creamery at a location across from the Coster cemetery. Adjoining this, a store building was erected and Mr. Craner and Mr. Courbat were business partners in the store. Shortly thereafter, Wm. Craner purchased full interest in the store, and still later purchased full interest in the creamery. Mr. Craner continued to operate the creamery and store until he sold the store to Newton Ramige in the fall of 1917. The creamery was sold to several farmers (a cooperative), who employed Mr. Wagner, and later E. Brooks, until the creamery closed in 1925.

A load of butter was delivered once or twice a week from the Courbat Creamery to Shell Rock in wagon drawn by three horses

Newton Ramige sold the store, the owners being Claus Harms and then John Modderman. It was operated for a time by M. K. Lalan for Mr. Shanks of Waterloo. Mr. Shanks sold the buildings to August Yarcho when the store closed in 1940-42. Mr. Yarcho dismantled the buildings—the end of the country store.

Churches

According to early history there was a Methodist Church in the Coster vicinity approximately a mile south of the German Evangelical Church.

The United Evangelical Church was built in 1894, closed in 1928, was dismantled in 1939, and the land is now a part of the T. Smith farm.

The German Evangelical became the Dutch Reformed Church. This building was destroyed by fire, and the acreage is now owned by Merle Knoll..

The Ebenezer Church, west of the corner (Butler Center and county road) closed and the building was moved to Shell Rock in 1955 to become the Church of Christ.

The Lutheran Church at the corner of Butler Center and county road, is still open, but is the Bethel Christian Reform Church at this time.

Educational

There were 7 school districts in Jefferson Township. District No. 4 closed in 1942 and the building was sold in 1948.

Districts No. 1 and No. 2 closed in 1947. District No. 2 building remains open as a Community Center at the present time. According to information gathered from Hazel Coster Hartwig, granddaughter of John Coster, Jefferson District No. 2, now better known as the Hartwig school, and located in the center of Jefferson Township, has been connected with the Coster and Hartwig families for a great many years. Her father, Henry W. Coster, born in 1868, attended this school when a boy. Edward Hartwig, her husband, received all of his schooling in the same little country school. Her two sisters, Elma Coster Harms, now of New Hartford, and Gretchen Coster, now deceased, as well as Edward Hartwig's sister, Ida Hartwig Condon of Hawaii, all taught in this school.

Milo Hartwig, son of Edward and Hazel Coster Hartwig, went through the eight grades here, and for sixteen years Edward was director at District No. 2 and much of that time served as president of the township school board. Hazel Hartwig has just completed her ninth year as secretary of the board.

Time brings many changes. The school has been closed for several years because of lack of teachers, and the grandson of the Edward Hartwig's (son of Milo) travels 9 miles by bus to attend the Shell Rock Consolidated School.

One thing of which the people of the community are very proud is that this little country school was the first rural school in Butler County to avail itself of the services of the R.E.A.

District No. 6 burned in February 1949.

District No. 7 closed in 1952.

Three and one-half districts (No. 1, No. 6, No. 7 and part of No. 2) are to become consolidated into the newly formed Allison Consolidated School District. The remaining districts are now, this spring of 1956, in the process of studying the possibility of consolidation with the Shell Rock Consolidated, and, or, the Clarksville Consolidated School Districts.

Organizations

In January 1951 a Community Club was organized in Jefferson Township, the first officers being Howard Stirling, President; Harry Miller, Vice-Pres.; Mrs. Vernon Hart, Sec'y.-Treas. The officers serve for a period of one year and the club meets once a month in the District No. 2 school building. Youngsters and grownups take part in the programs. The club has had a variety of money making projects, such as bazaars, white elephant sales, picture shows and chicken suppers. Everyone goes from grandpas to babes in arms and everyone takes part. The present membership consists of 25 families. Officers now serving are Eugene Maefield, Pres.; Milo Hartwig, Vice-Pres.; Mrs. Merle Knoll, Sec'y-Treas.

The District No. 2 building is also used for a polling place. The Farm Bureau holds regular meetings there, and the 4-H Club meets occasionally.

Roads

The township roads are in good shape, with gravel surfaced roads and concrete bridges. They are fortunate to have two "farm-to-market" roads. One extends from the east to the west (The Butler Center road) and the county road from the north to the south.

A new 583 foot concrete bridge now spans the new course of the West Fork River, replacing four bridges.

Now the roadsides are lined, not only with telephone poles, but the Rural Electrification Association lines, giving electricity to almost one hundred percent of the Jefferson Township farms.

A RURAL WEDDING AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

By Mrs. C. H. Riggert

The banns having been published (announced from the pulpit in the church) and the guest list decided upon, the wedding preparations were under way.

The evening before the wedding came the charivari party at the bride's home. Only men came to this. They brought pans and kettles and tubs on which they beat to make noise. They screeched and hollered and fired shotguns at times, making a bedlam of noise. They marched around the house and hollered and beat their pans some more. The groom, who was expected to be at the bride's house would come out to greet them. His bride would be expected to make a brief appearance and then refreshments would be served usaually cake and a keg of beer. This was served in one of the tents or some buliding other than the house, or in warm weather at tables and benches erected under the trees. Sometimes they played cards for a while, but more often they sat around and drank beer and told ribald jokes. Then, with a final banging of kettles and pans they went home.

The wedding attendants were usually selected from the immediate family of the bride and groom. These were all unmarried; rarely were married attendants selected. No printed invitations were sent by mail. They were delivered in person by the bride's or groom's brother or the nearest of kin. These "inviters" rode a horse decorated with paper flowers, ribbons, and streamers. They started out in the early morning, chanting "Yoo, hoo, hoo!" and a peculiar "Hey de yuch hey!" They repeated this chant whenever they neared a home where they were to deliver an invitation or upon passing anyone on the road or in the field. The invitation was delivered in a semi-formal manner after which refreshments were offered to the "inviter." Also, a ribbon about a yard long was given him and was pinned to his hat. When the "inviter" returned home in the evening hoarse and tired, he looked like an Indian with a feather headdress with his vari-colored ribbons fluttering in the breeze.

There were no radios, television, or daily newspapers but when a wedding was in the offing the news had a way of being spread and soon all the neighborhood knew about it. The young ladies made it a point to have a suitable ribbon on hand. Sometimes it was one that had done service as a sash or hair ornament if a new one was not available. The more wealthy and sophisticated hurriedly hitched the driving horse to the buggy, grabbed a basket of eggs, and drove to the nearest town to buy a length of new ribbon so as not to be caught short. And what a heartache if the expected invitation did not materialize as did occassionally happen. Although, as a rule, the information of whether it would be a "small" or a "large" wedding was noised about beforehand so neighbors and friends knew what to expect.

The invitation received, there was the need to arrange for flowers for the young people of the family as all the unmarried, above about fourteen years old, wore flowers. These were of silk or muslin. The girls wore them in their hair, the boys in their lapel.

A new dress for the young ladies was a "must." The young gentlemen sometimes too, had a new suit but men's suits being comparatively expensive they often had to be content with a brushing, pressing and sponging of their old suit. Dry cleaning was unheard of in the country. Ladies clothes were home-sewn or made by the neighborhood seamstress and therefore were cheaper than men's suits.

The groom, of course, had an entire new outfit and if at all possible, his attendants did also. The bride wore a floor-length dress of any color she chose with a floor-length veil and a wreath of wax flowers which were usually orange blossoms and myrtle vine. The bridesmaids wore colored frocks and a spray of wax flowers arranged with a rosette of tulle, matching the bride's veil and wreath in their hair. The groom and his attendants wore a boutonniere with the groom's being somewhat larger than those of his attendants.

The groom came to the bride's home beforehand and, at the set time all got into surreys decorated with paper flowers and streamers and drove to church. The bride rode with the members of the wedding party from her side of the house, the groom with his. Coming back after the ceremony, the bride and groom rode in the same surrey.

The bride walked down the aisle with a brother or the nearest of kin in the wedding party. The groom walked with his sister or nearest of female kin in the wedding party, followed by the bridesmaids walking with the groomsmen, two and two. After the ceremony the bride and the groom walked out together and the attendants paired off the same as when entering.

Then back to the surreys and back to the bride's home for the wedding celebration. The faster the driver could make the horses run the better. However, he must be on the lookout too, for at times he might find a tight rope stretched across the road. This was often done by men not invited to the wedding and called for a bottle of liquor from the groom before the rope would be voluntarily lowered. Then a loud "giddap!" and the wedding party was on its way again. It was considered a disgrace to try to run through the rope or to get out and cut it without paying the "bottle" toll, and the groom who tried it usually suffered unhappy retaliation at some later day from the rope holders.

The ceremony usually started at 10:45 or 11:00 a.m. so the wedding party would be back for the noon meal.

These wedding meals were quite an undertaking. For days before the preparations were in the making. Neighborhood young ladies were asked to come in and help bake endless pies, cakes, cookies, coffee-cake and bread. A beef was butchered and kettles of rice, potatoes, dried peaches, prunes, and vegetables were cooked. The older ladies did the cooking and dish washing on the actual day while the young ladies had table-waiting duty. These were all considered "honor" jobs. A full dinner was served at noon, a supper around 6:00 p.m. and then a midnight supper featuring hot potato salad, bologna and everything left over of the roast, baked goods, cooked fruit, etc.

At "small" weddings people sat around and visited, drank beer and sang songs. The young people strolled about the lawn and sat in surreys and "spooned." But at the large weddings a dance began in the evening and sometimes lasted until daybreak or as long as the beer kegs held out. Neighborhood "fiddlers" or accordianists furnished the music for the dance. In general everyone was well behaved and everyone from baby to grandpa had a good time.

If a barn loft was available, then the dance was held there. If not, a tent had to be put up and a wood floor laid and benches constructed along all four sides for spectators and wall-flowers.

If the home was small and no other building on the farm available that could be scrubbed and decorated for a dining room, then a tent, tables, and benches had to be constructed for a dining hall, too, for serving the many meals. It was not uncommon to have one hundred fifty to two hundred guests at these affairs since all the family from grandma to baby were always included in the invitation.

At mealtime the hostess or her helpers might urge the guests to "sit down and eat," but in general it was expected that everyone sat down wherever he could find room at the tables without special invitation. With so many guests, they naturally had to eat in shifts and consequently when the last were finished with the noon meal, the first were about ready for the evening meal. At the midnight supper the young men would invite a girl friend to eat with them and it was regarded as "significant interest" to eat midnight supper with anyone.

Yes, weddings in those days were quite something. They were really important social affairs. There was tremendous work and preparation but also much fun. It happened only once in a lifetime to an individual for they were lasting. Divorce was unknown and the vows were truly "for better or for worse and until death do us part!"

THE PHEASANTS

By Mrs. C. H. Riggert

West Point township and the area around Allison used to be mostly prairie land and therefore could not boast of large wild game animals in the early days. However, prairie chicken, quail, etc. were plentiful, plus the usual small burrowing animals and rodents. But shortly after the turn of the century, Chinese pheasants were introduced into the county from Government controlled hatcheries. They were turned loose on the land and were not permitted to be hunted. They multiplied fast and soon an open season had to be declared every fall; by the time of the twenties, the farmers complained that they were destroying crops, especially newly planted corn. So something had to be done. The Waterloo, Iowa, Courier, with an Allison by-line, carried the following:

"On May 1, 1925, the state declared a 20-day open season on pheasants in Butler County on petition of farmers that the birds were damaging crops and taking a large amount of grain from the farmer's supplies. One charge was that the birds would dig out corn from freshly planted rows, but close observers reported that it was something else the birds were after, not corn. The state offered a bounty of $1 for each live bird brought in for shipment to other parts of the state and $1 per dozen for pheasant eggs delivered in good condition to be hatched at state designated farms. The people of Butler County went to work with a will and in one day, a Monday, a record of 1190 birds were brought in. The following day, 1400 were received. Chas. L. Green, the officer in charge reported that three dray loads of crated birds were shipped out Monday night by express but that he and his assistants were literally "covered up" with Tuesday's record receipts. At supper time several hundred birds were still in sacks and it was necessary to work well into the night to get them all crated.

"The birds were shipped to the state game farm at Clive, Iowa, from where they were re-shipped to various points in the state, mostly to the southern section. A halt was called on Wednesday on egg bounties when about 5.500 dozen eggs had been delivered here. 4,600 dozen were shipped to Clive, 700 dozen went to a hatchery at La Porte City and a large box was broken. The Clive hatchery was unable to handle any more. A total of $11,000.00 was paid into the county for these live birds and eggs. This on top of many birds which were, no doubt, illegally hunted."

There are still many pheasants in the county today. They are watchfully guarded by the game wardens until the customary fall open season. Then hunters from many states come in to try to bag the legal limit and they together with the local hunters, bang away loudly every day reminding one of by-gone days when corn was shucked by hand and thrown against the wagon bangboard.

THE GHOST WALKS AT MIDNIGHT

By Mrs. C. H. Riggert

At least that is what the local young men of the early nineteen hundred's maintain. He made his appearance about three miles north of Allison between the bridge and the Prange schoolhouse (German District No. 7). All the young people skirted this area if perchance they were out near the midnight hour. They would rather drive an extra mile around the next section even with a comparatively slow horse, rather than pass this haunted section. From some of the oldsters who were young in those days the writer gleaned the following:

Mr. and Mrs. John Kromer of Allison—

"I was told Louis Busse, Sr. saw him and Henry Fick told us, 'I and Wm. Kammeyer, who lived nearby, one night were driving by. Something looking like a headless man suddenly appeared alongside our buggy. It walked along for a space. I said hello, but the thing did not answer. And suddenly it was gone'."

Will Kammeyer verified this story to Kromer's:

"Henry Dralle, Sr. said his horse was frightened by something there one night. It shied aside and fell to the ground."

From Henry Edeker:

"Henry Fick and I were driving by one summer night shortly after midnight. Suddenly our horses shied to the side. There followed a flash of lightning and Henry lashed out with the buggy whip at something on the side and cried out to me, 'Don't you see it'? He described it as looking like a man without a head and black. We hurried away quite shaken by the experience."

Henry F. Voigts was another person concerned by this legend. While not admitting that he had ever seen it, he did confess driving two extra miles on his way home after visiting his fiancee, so he would not need to go near the haunted spot.

From Ed Murtagh of Algona, Iowa, who grew up around Bremer County, comes the story told to him by real old timers:

"It is the ghost of a man hung by early settlers. He was caught near that area and accused of horse stealing. After he was hung, it developed that he was innocent.

Now he walks about in the night seeking justice."

Be that as it may in late years no one seems to be able to see the so-called "ghost of the Prange schoolhouse." Perhaps he is tired or perhaps he was the victim of a hit and run driver. Yet, dear reader, be not too contemptuous when passing this spot. It could be that the ghost's ghost will stare at you from the side of the road.

FAMILY REUNIONS

By Mrs. C. H. Riggert

Following World War I or thereabouts family reunions became the fashion as large social affairs. By that time the families had become too large and too scattered to be accommodated by Grandma at Sunday dinner. So yearly the members of a given clan, descendants of a common ancestor gather for a day of rejoicing and reminiescence. Each family brings some food and a pot-luck dinner is in order. This is followed or preceded by a business meeting where officers for the next year are elected. The history of the past year is read and reviewed. New members added by birth and by marriage are welcomed and exclaimed over. Sometimes there is a program given. Some groups have elaborate leaflets printed for members of the meetings and the past year's history. Others are content with detailed minutes in the secretary's book. Much visiting is done to catch up on the news of members living at a distance. They are usually held in a rented hall, or a public park if the weather is fit. Or even on a farmstead when the group is not too large.

All are enjoyable affairs and contribute to family solidity and to the American Way of Life. The motive behind them might best be described in the theme song of one group which they sing at the opening of the meeting.

How good it is for brethren
To gather every year,
In unity together,
From places far and near.

BY COVERED WAGON FROM CHICAGO TO BUTLER CO.

By Mrs. C. H. Riggert

"The great Chicago fire had finally been brought under control. Along the streets between charred homes and business places, there was constant talk of opportunities in the WEST. So we too decided to make a westward trek and seek our fortune."

With this opening, Frank Busse, Sr. and his sister, Emma Busse Heuer, told me the story of their trip in a covered wagon from Chicago to Parkersburg in Butler County.

"Our driver was Henry Voigts, a young roomer in our parent's home. He was what today we call a trucker, only he had a large dray wagon, holding between 200 and 300 bushels of grain, drawn by two large brown horses, instead of a motordriven truck. This wagon he traded for a large, new farm wagon. Covered it over hoops with black material; hitched his horses named Tom and Frank onto it and we were ready to start out. We filled the wagon with supplies, bedding, household utensils and furniture. There were six of us—father, mother, Henry, two children 9 and 7 years old, and our little brother, Louis.

"We left Chicago on Saturday morning May 22, 1874, at 9:30 a.m. The first day we drove only 16 miles and camped out that night on a lovely triangle of grass. We let the horses feed on the luscious grass. The women got supper, we visited awhile, and went to bed. About midnight a light rain fell, the only rain during the trip.

"The next night, Sunday, we came to a town and stopped to buy supplies. The proprietor of the place asked us where we were going. We answered, "Iowa." He said, "you'd better get going. This is a mining town and very tough. You'll be a lot safer further out." We did move on as we were concerned. Already the first night out we were really alarmed as after we were settled two suspicious looking men walked by on foot. And Henry carried $500 cash in his pocket—all his savings with which he hoped to buy some land for a home in Iowa. Life was cheap in the years following the Civil War and robbery and murder for even a few dollars was not uncommon.

"Some time after we left this town, we came to a farm house. We asked the farmer if we could stay. He said, "Sure. Unhitch your horses and put them in the barn." The men slept in the barn near the horses, the women in the farm house. We made an effort to stay with farmers, but at times slept in the open. We fed our horses along the way—the grass along the roadside and farmers fed them grain at night if we stayed at a farm house. This was the accepted custom of feeding the animals of travelers going through.

"We had no trouble finding the way. We asked people along the way, followed the railroad, had some maps, and in general, just followed the dirt road WEST.

"Halfway to Iowa we realized our load was too heavy for the horses and we unloaded part of it and shipped it by rail to Parkersburg.

"We crossed the Mississippi at Dubuque on a large ferry. The wagon wheels were chained down on the raft to prevent them from slipping off.

"The farmers along the way were very hospitable. At times they were a bit suspicious at first, but often cried when we had to part and move on as they regretted seeing us leave. Friendships were made fast in those days and enmity spotted equally fast. The next Sunday we came to a nice farm home which we remember specially. Mother went to the house to ask for a bowl of sour milk for Henry, who loved it so well. The lady was home alone and the poor thing was badly frightened. Later her husband came home and they showed us all over the farm and the house. We enjoyed it so much and all of us were very sad the next morning at parting, for we had become good friends.

"Finally on June 1st at 3:30 p.m., after 11 days enroute we arrived at the home of Father's brother, William

Busse, near Parkersburg. Father and Henry started working and the same year bought a piece of land. Then Mother said to Henry, "now you should have a wife." Henry, ever modest, replied, "No one would have me." My mother asked, "How about my niece Louise whom we left in Chicago?" He said, "Oh, she wouldn't have me." Mother said, "We shall see. I am going to write her." She sat down and wrote her niece and added "Do not write, but if you wish to come, just come." She came! And that September they were married."

And thus another immigrant settled on the Butler County prairie and another family was established. Another immigrant like so many before and after them, seeking and finding a new home and freedom and helping to make Butler County what it is today.

Butler County Agricultural and Horticultural Society

By Mrs. W. C. Shepard and Mary E. Van Vlack

One hundred years have passed since the first Butler County Fair was held at Willoughby Village, a little place four miles north and one half mile west of New Hartford. The only record found of this meeting is taken from a history of Butler and Bremer Counties published in 1883 on page 363. It also says James Collar of New Hartford was first President and James Davis of Clarksville was first Secretary.

Then there seems to be no record in existence until 1866 but Fairs were held and premiums were paid. The annual report for the year 1866 says, "For seven years previous to the present year the Society has held its fairs at different points in the County no one place having it for two successive years, which under this system, the grounds were temporarily fitted up and the interest of members was but temporary and of course the success of the Fair was also temporary."

The first minutes which have been preserved were recorded March 15, 1866 at Butler Center, with James Collar, President. The meeting was called for the purpose of reorganizing the Society on a more permanent basis. The name of the Society was "The Butler County Agricultural and Horticultural Society." The object, to prepare suitable buildings and enclose grounds for the purpose of holding Fairs and to offer suitable premiums for the encouragement of Agricultural, Horticultural and Mechanical pursuits and the improvement of stock and productions of Butler County. The business was to be under the management of thirteen directors, to hold office for one year, or until their successors were elected and qualified. The first Board of Directors were: A. Converse, R. R. Parriott, J. W. Wright, John Hickle, J. H. Hale, M. Hollenbeck, James Collar, C. B. Simons, James Wood, Chas. Ensign, Martin Bailey, B. Leavens, and J. H. Carter.

Life memberships were sold at ten dollars a person. Members could withdraw under certain conditions given in the By-Laws, or might transfer their membership to

Congratulations

To The

BUTLER COUNTY FAIR

ON ITS 100 YEARS OF STEADY PROGRESS

May you continue to march ahead as you have in the past years

K. W. BRANDT ELEVATORS

★ GRAIN ★ FEED ★ SEED

★ FERTILIZER ★ LUMBER

ALLISON — STOUT — KESLEY

other parties. Fifty members had signed up before the meeting of June 2, thirty-four paying dues at this meeting. W. L. Palmer, Editor of "The Stiletto," a newspaper published at Shell Rock, was a Life Member in consideration of publishing done for the Society. Under the reorganization plan an existence of twenty years was provided for. The Directors were instructed to locate Fair grounds in Shell Rock Township. The time of the Fair each year was to be decided at the annual election held in June.

The Officers elected at this meeting were: James Collar, Pres.; C. B. Simons, Vice Pres.; Martin Bailey, Sec.; Sylvester Rice, Treas. Martin Bailey, 1st Sec. was the maternal grandfather of Mrs. John W. Arbuckle and Mrs. Geo. Cheever, daughters of George M. Craig.

The Directors reported that they had purchased the James McCague 20 acres for $200, comprising the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section Three, Shell Rock Township, and temporary buildings were erected and grounds fenced with a board fence.

The gate fee for adults was 25 cents, and 10 cents for children under ten years.

Horses, cattle, sheep and swine were exhibited and farm and garden produce. Single buggy awards were given.

In 1870 the Clarksville Band was asked to play. Prizes were awarded for trotting horses and $1.50 a day was allowed a guard on the Fair Grounds for three days service.

At this time the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railway Company wanted a right of way thru these grounds for a railroad track, so officers of the Fair Society were authorized to sell the Fair Grounds for $500, reserving all improvements.

S. Rice offered to lease sufficient grounds on the South side of the present grounds, for a term of years free of charge to the Society, except that he was to have use of the grounds as pasturage and citizens of Shell Rock were to prepare the grounds free of charge except material necessary for repairs. The land, ten acres, was leased for fifty years.

It was decided to offer premiums for artificial groves set out to encourage people to plant trees around their homes as protection from cold in winter and heat in summer. Most of the timber was along the streams and rivers and was being rapidly cut down for fuel. Amos Ressler was awarded second premium for his artificial grove of soft maple, black ash and white elm, which presented a fine appearance, this being the only grove on which a premium was claimed.

In 1873 Article 3 of the Constitution was changed to seven Directors instead of Thirteen and the President was appointed a delegate to the State Agricultural Society and if unable to go, to appoint a substitute. The President and Secretary were instructed to try to produce a tent at a reasonable rate for a Floral Hall, and also to make arrangements with the B. C. R. & N. Railroad, if

GRAND AMERICAN SHOWS

12 RIDES — 8 SHOWS — 30 CONCESSIONS

Clean Well Lighted Modern Midway

WE CONGRATULATE THE BUTLER COUNTY FAIR CENTENNIAL

ON ITS 100 YEARS OF SHOW BUSINESS

L. O. Weaver Owner-Manager

Fairbank, Iowa

possible, for excursions during the Fair. From this time the Secretary was to receive a salary.

The Butler-Bremer History, on page 363 says, "The Nineteenth Annual Fair was held at Shell Rock on Sept. 28, 29 and 30, 1875, and was a success." The officers at this time were Martin Bailey of Butler Center, Pres.; T. G. Copeland of Clarksville, Vice-Pres.; J. O. Stewart of Clarksville, Sec.; and E. Town of Shell Rock, Treas. The business meetings were sometimes held at Shell Rock and sometimes at Butler Center.

At the meeting in 1876 the question of relocation of the Fair Grounds was considered. For the remainder of the year the minutes were very short with no mention of the relocation of the Fair Grounds. However, no wheels of fortune or pools were to be allowed. In 1886 a committee was appointed to secure grounds for holding the Fair. Mr. John Williams offered to lease the present grounds for 1 year or more, not to exceed ten years, at $50 a year. The offer was accepted and Articles of Renewal adopted. S. Rice, E. Gowan, J. T. Wright and ladies were elected a committee to prepare premium lists and time for holding the Fair.

A committee from Clarksville, J. R. Jones, J. Perrin, and Cyrus Doty came to the meeting at Shell Rock and proposed consolidation of two Societies, The Clarksville Fair Association and The Butler County Agricultural and Horticultural Society. It was rejected at both the August and September meetings. Then a vote was taken to hold the Fair at Allison. This was also rejected. But on October 30, 1886, a motion was made to change the Articles by Amendment and Renewal to read." The location and place of business of Butler County Agricultural and Horticultural Society shall be Allison instead of Shell Rock." Sixty-five voted for it and nine against it.

Directors Butler County Fair
Back Row (Left to Right): Frank Kilson, Ed Trager, Mr. Krene DeBerg, Henry Harms, Irving Hart, Charles Carter
Front Row: John Coster, Harvey Wilson, W. C. Shepard, Krank Fishel, O. F. Missman, E. E. Wilder

The next business was to tear down buildings and pile up lumber ready to move to Allison. The committee to select a location was J. Perrin, S. Rice, R. Stanley, L. J. Rogers, I. M. Fisher, G. M. Craig, J. W. Ray, James Collar, S. M. Baldwin, S. B. Dumrock and N. Olmstead.

Articles were changed to have one man from each Civil Township as Director. The first Fair held in Allison was in 1887 which was the 31st annual Fair. Officers at

CONGRATULATIONS TO

BUTLER COUNTY FAIR

ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL YEAR

from

Barnes-Carruthers

Theatrical Enterprizes, Inc.

159 N. Dearborn St. Chicago, Ill.

Presenting

New and spectacular feature attractions at the grandstand. Bring the whole family to the best entertainment of all provided by the same company which has produced the Iowa State Fair Revue for over 50 years.

that time were President, J. C. Carter; Vice-President, K. S. Greene; Secretary, Geo. M. Craig; and Treasurer, N. C. Brown. In 1889 Mrs. S. E. Burroughs, Mrs. H. C. Brown, Mrs. L. B. Klinck and Mrs. Geo. Craig were given offices in the Floral Hall.

In 1891 the Society bought 20 acres which they had been leasing paying $500 down, $200 in January, 1892 and the balance in two equal payments. The next year the Superintendent was authorized to fence the grounds with four foot wired slats and posts. They had a plowing match, with a prize of $10.00.

ALLISON, IOWA.

Old Fair Book

Mrs. George Feltus has in her possession a Butler County Fair premium book, dated Sept. 10, 11 and 12, 1894. It is 6 by 3¾ inches.

Among the advertisers are: Citizens' Bank, Allison, H. F. Wild, Cashier; Bank of Bristow and Bank of Dumont; Lathrop, Goodhue & Co., Geo. Monroe Jr., Manager; J. K. Winsett, dealer in hardware, tinware, Garland stoves and ranges, and gasoline stoves. Also Agent for sale of "New Leader Washer." They are for sale by Wm. Refsnider of Clarksville, owner of patent for Butler County.

Burbank Jewelry Store; Digman House, Mrs. F. Digman, Proprietor, J. P. Kirby, Clerk; F. G. Brennecke, fresh and cured meats, bologna, lard, ice, etc.; G. W. Wild and H. F. Wild, General Merchandise; Butler County Tribune, Geo. F. Wood, Proprietor; I. M. Fisher, Iowa Central Stock Farm, harness horses, Mambrino Boy mares, colts and fillies, Wilkes horses, also chickens, Plymouth Rocks, English Red Caps, Wyandottes, Bantams, and Bronze Turkeys; D. B. Downey, coal and wood; Craig, Ray and Hyde, Attorney, Notary Public and Abstracter; J. N. Weckler, Horse Shoer and General Blacksmith; M. Taffner, dealer in harness, saddles, collars, and whips.

Allison House, headquarters for commercial travelers, G. McWilliams, Proprietor; Richard Miner, Undertaker and Embalmer, Greene; Arnold Bros., Drygoods, Groceries, boots, shoes, green and dried friuts, flour and feeds; Amos Wescott, Cash Grocery and Restaurant; Levi Elliott, coal and ice, keeps you warm in winter, cool in summer; also proprietor of Allison Opera House; G. A. Griffin, woven wire fence; W. M. Hunter, lumber, coal, twine, rakes, buggies, carts and wagons; S. Thomas, Buckeye

Butler-County Mutual Ins. Association

New Hartford, Iowa

1876 **1956**

Eighty Years of Continuous Service
and
Low Cost Insurance to Butler County

All The Following Coverages in one Policy

Fire & Lightning
Smoke
Falling Aircraft
Theft of Personal Property
Electrocution of Livestock
Tornado & Windstorm
Explosion
Motor Vehicles
Riots & Civil Commotion
Overturn of specifically insured Farm Mach.

Fire Coverage of Unharvested Hay & Grain

For Today's Best Insurance Value See One of the Following Agents

H. F. Dieke — Plainfield
H. W. Brinkman — Greene
G. E. Ressler — Greene
Milton Dye — Bristow
E. O. Wickham — Dumont
Ed Delker — Aplington
Joe Janssen — Parkersburg
Emory Scott — Allison
Will Harms — Allison
L. C. Hahn — Shell Rock
Emmett Wintz — Aplington
F. F. Lursen — Kesley
Aldrick Kneppe — Parkersburg
Dale Brinkman — New Hartford
F. H. Schmadeke — Clarsville

DALE BRINKMAN, Secretary

New Hartford, Iowa

Frameless Binders, Janesville disc corn plows, Greene; T. Birkbeck, drygoods, boots, shoes and groceries 1881-1894; Sash & Door Factory, Leydig & Cloukey, Greene; Price & Buchholz, Dry Goods, Clothing and Groceries, Clarksville.

Livery, Feed & Seed Stable, G. M. Dopking, Proprietor. Will carry passengers to any point, day or night, with good teams and careful drivers; John Huss, General Herchandise, Dry Goods and Groceries; S. W. Burroughs, Druggist and Pharmacist; F. W. Vick & Co. Hardware, Farm Implements and Windmills; Pilot Rock Herd of purebred swine, W. P. Miller, Bristow; J. E. Coonley, Grocer, Bristow; Chicago Great Western Ry.; F. H. Lord, ticket agent.

The only familiar names among the advertisers are: Arnold, Hunter, Craig, Ray, Wild, Miller, Price and Buchholz.

The following is a partial list of Premiums offered:

FLOWERS & PLANTS: To largest exhibitor, a Diploma.

DAIRY & PANTRY: Best 5 pounds dairy butter, best tub creamery butter, best cheese, 5 pounds honey, tray of biscuits.

HOUSEHOLD & FANCY: Best 10 yards rag carpet, best crazy quilt, burlap rug, handmade shirt, suit, ladies underclothes (handmade).

KNIT & CROCHET: Woolen hose, hood, undervest, fascinator.

FANCY WORK: Piano cover, pin cushion, glove and handkerchief case, picture throw, wall banner, lamberquin, pillow and sheet sham, whisk broom holder, splasher and washstand scarf, satchet bag, photograph case, foot rest.

RESTAURANT

Allison Main Street in 1905

MECHANICAL: Diplomas given for best—farm wagon, pair bobsleds, 2-horse carriage, single top buggy, open buggy, sulky, road cart, churn, bee hive, horse hay rake, fanning mill.

In 1895 gambling games were excluded and in 1896 premiums were paid on different kinds of apples, Dutchess, Wealthy, Whitney, Wolfriver, Tolman, Plum Cider, Greenings, Hyslop and Transcendent crabs. $600 was appropriated for horse races, $50 for Ball Games and $120 for a contract for two balloon ascensions. $30 for bicycle races limited to Butler County residents. A $15 first prize was awarded for a ladies bicycle exhibition.

The following story was written by Marshall B. Craig for the Butler County Centennial Publication.

1897—"Look out for Indians at the Butler County Fair!"

Placards with the above sentence in huge letters were posted throughout Butler County during the summer of 1897. The Tama Indian Reservation, the home of the Sac and Fox, or the Mesquakie tribe, was a by word throughout Iowa, but the Indians seldom left their boundaries any more, and few of the white people, particularly the younger set, had ever seen a Red Skin, except in a medicine show.

However, in the pioneer days of Butler County, the Indians often left the reservation in the spring time, and meandered up the rivers on hunting and trapping expeditions, and were seen on the West Fork banks south of Butler Center, and along the Shell Rock near Clarksville. They would come to the kitchen door and ask for food, and would get an old suit of clothes or a dress for good measure.

Through the influence of State Senator Penrose of Tama County, a tribe of about 30 Indians, braves, squaws and papooses, made a visit to the Butler County Fair. They came overland by covered wagon and astride. Local anticipation was at its height when Dr. S. E. Burroughs drove into the Fair Grounds from one of his professional trips in a Southeasterly direction, and announced the

THOMPSON WELDING WORKS

Portable Welding and Cutting

Boiler Makers — Steel Construction

General Blacksmithing — Repairing

Telephone 28 Shell Rock, Iowa

RALPH N. YOST

CARPENTRY

Phone 129

SHELL ROCK, IOWA

Airview of Allison

'vanishing Americans' had just passed the County farm, and would arrive in an hour or so. Excitement ran high. Joe Junkunz and I mounted our bicycles, proclaimed ourselves a reception committee of two, and proceeded to wheel eastward on what I believe is now State Highway No. 3. About 2 miles out, here were the Red-Skins, their wagons and horses halted at the side of the road, and all hands out on the prairies, gathering herbs, roots and other valuables, which we pale faces knew nothing about, though growing in our own front yards.

Joe and I were the vanguard for the balance of the trek, and when we reached the turn into Main Street, here was the entire juvenile population of Allison to greet the real Americans; then through the gate into the Fair Grounds, where a space had been reserved for the camp.

And now it was proven to us, that the alleged tradition of the Indian, "Let the women do the work," was literally true. The braves lolled around and smoked their pipes, while the squaws set up the wigwams and equipment, and watered and fed the horses.

The Chief's name was Joseph Tucson. He was the only adult in the tribe who would converse with the pale faces. The others were very reticent or did not speak the white man's language. However, the younger generation was very talkative, and engaged in much play and games with our home town boys, and were generally victorious.

Every afternoon during the Fair, the Indians staged a marvelous exhibition in front of the Grand Stand; war dances, archery, gymnastics, horsemanship and foot races and in the race track oval, played their national game of la crosse. They taught the local youths how to make a la crosse stick, and the knack of throwing and catching the ball. For many months the Allison boys vied for the best la crosse stick, and the record throw; and many was the Saturday afternoon excursion to the Hank Meade woods on the West Fork in search of a better hickory limb and then to Martin Taffner's harness shop for raw hide to make the basket.

Mr. Craig has the following to relate concerning the bicycle races of the Butler County Fairs during the '90's.

"I remember particularly the 1897 Fair when I sold race score cards under the supervision of Art Minert. These score cards had to go to print before the entries were complete for the bicycle race, so the contestants' names had to be penciled in. Here is what I wrote: UNDERWOOD-SUT-LIFFE-FOWLE-SEITZ-HESSE. How many readers recognize the above names?"

In 1901 the price of admission was set at 35c for adults. The Allison Band was admitted free for furnishing music for two days. On September 19th it rained and the Fair was ordered closed and a committee was appointed to settle with those who had privileges on the grounds and to pay the Glee Club, band, speaker and ball teams. No stall rent was collected. The next year the gate fee was lowered to 30c. The Salvation Army was allowed freedom of the grounds and the committee on amusements was limited to $1,000 in expenditures.

September 1, 1904 the Fair again closed on account of bad weather and money was paid to the Clarksville and Bristow ball teams and to horsemen in races not finished. At this time donations were asked of Life Members of the Society.

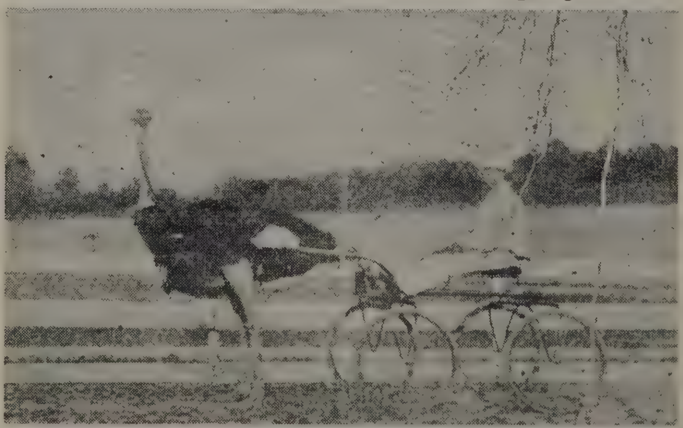
August 24, 1905 was called German-American Day. Township displays of best decorated wagon with farm produce, and herds of not less than 5 head of cattle owned in Butler County were a feature of this Fair. On account of rain the Fair was held over a day.

In 1906 the purse on speed was limited to $700. Only 2 eating tents were let on the grounds at not less than $15 each. It was decided to take $200 from the amount appropriated for horse racing and add $100 thereto and get the "trotting ostrich."

Again we are indebted to Marshall B. Craig for a story about the "Trotting Ostrich."

"SEE THE TROTTING OSTRICH AT THE
BUTLER COUNTY FAIR!"

The above was the slogan of 1906. Vern Gregory was the Secretary of the Fair that year, and he and I worked together to arrange the high lights of the occasion. The trotting ostrich was being exhibited at various Fairs and expositions throughout the State, and contract was made for its appearance at the Butler County event. The bird, his driver and trainer, and cart, came to Allison in a covered wagon, the animal's head just protruding from the 'dome,' and the canvass sides denoting the con-



At the Butler County Fair, Allison. September 4, 5 & 6, 1906 tents in 'blazoned' letters. It was a great display of publicity as that wagon travelled those prairie roads toward Allison.

The great show arrived a day or two before the Fair was to open, and the two-toed fowl was housed in the narrow fenced arena between the grand stand and the track. The ostrich and his driver went into training. A blind fold hood was placed over the bird's head while he was being hitched to the sulky and led onto the track. Of course, a crowd of the curious gathered around to witness the proceedings, but they remained a safe distance from those vicious toes. The driver mounted his seat, and directed his attendant to remove the hood. The Bird's head had to be lowered to accomplish this. The hood was removed, the attendant leaped out of the way and off raced the two legged speedster. Around the track he ran, faster than any equine had ever traveled that or any other track.

When the home stretch was reached, wonderment was high as to braking method. There were no foot pedals nor emergency brakes on that cart. The bridle consisted of a kind of hackamore, with reins down the fowl's long neck, and then through rings to the driver's hands. The theory of braking such a vehicle was soon learned. By sheer strength the driver pulled the stead's head down until his neck arched like an inverted (U). In this posture locomotion became impossible, and the breaks took hold. It was a thrilling event. This was only the practice heat, but upon each of the 3 successive days of the Fair, this exhibition was held and never once did the steed bolt the unfenced track."

In 1907 Sunday ball games were banned on the Fair Grounds and the Bowery must close at 10 o'clock p.m. There were pony races and a mule race and the second day of the Fair there was a barbecue with roast ox and buns. E. E. Wilder was in charge of a potato race on horseback and Herman Johnson was in charge of an egg race.

Two new classes of judging were added for boys under 16 on corn and girls on bread baking. Premiums were given for the best butter.

In 1910 auto races were limited to residents of Butler County with top premium set at $30. W. I. Atkinson was hired as umpire for the Fair baseball games at $10 for the 2 days. Six negro jubilee singers entertained and Madam LaVerne made balloon ascensions.

In 1911 the W.C.T.U. equipped a Rest Tent, which was a welcome addition for older people and mothers of small children.

Much had been done toward better livestock and produce but the most important product of all, the human race, had very little attention. So at this time the Fair Board planned a Baby Health Contest. Doctors and nurses were on hand to fill out questionnaires and examine small children and prizes were given for different ages of Town and Country babies and a Sweepstakes prize for the best rating over all. This continued for several years and was educational due to the fact that mothers learned more about the care and feeding of children.

When the Fair Grounds were purchased in 1885 it was thought that the land went only to the highway going south from Allison but from surveys in the office of the County Auditor it was found that some of the land on the west side of the highway was included. So in consideration of $1.00 paid by F. Smith and Otto Freeze the land lying next to their premises was sold to them.

Three thousand copies of a premium book were printed and advertising sold for $4 for a full page, $2.50 for a half page and $1.50 for a fourth of a page. $25 was allowed for the Baby Health Contest. Horse racing, two pushball contests and a wrestling match were attractions. The winners in Superintendent Boardman's Education Exhibit to be held in June, 1914 were to be given free tickets to the Fair. A concrete sidewalk was made on the west side of the Fairgrounds along Main Street to the ticket office.

A special feature of the 1914 Fair was Old Settler's Day. Each person who had been a resident of the County 50 years or more and who registered at the rest tent was given a free admission ticket. The longest resident of the County was given a gold headed cane or parasol. The oldest person was given the same, the tallest and heaviest were given wallets and the man with the largest family was given a sack of flour.

September 3, 1915 all soldiers of the Civil War were admitted free to the grounds and Grand Stand; also all people over 65 who registered at Old Settler's tent on Sept. 1 & 2. Free attractions were six Royal Hussar Girls, Albert Comedy Triple Bar Act, Stephnaa's Russian Dancers and Shipman's Clowns, for which the Fair Board paid $1650. Horse races were limited to horses owned in the county. There were basketball games and fireworks and this year the Secretary and Treasurer's report showed a balance to the good. It was voted to pay off $500 of indebtedness. They also purchased a flag to be flown from the pole on Floral Hall.

In 1916 a ticket office was built at the Auto Gate and the grounds were wired for light and power.

In 1918 the net proceeds of the Fair were donated to the Red Cross except the State appropriation. Enlisted men in uniform were admitted free.

E. E. Wilder was appointed a committee of one to distribute water to stock tanks and drinking fountains.

In 1919 no election of officers was held on account of an epidemic. Allison and other towns in the County were quarantined so officers of 1918 were declared officers for 1919. At this time there was talk of erecting an exhibition building with a rest room. A. E. Ruehaak, a building contractor estimated that this would cost $3252.00. They decided to sell stock and borrow the balance and also to erect a swine house.

1920 saw the retirement of John Coster who had been President for 16 years. He was voted a resolution of thanks and appreciation for his helpfulness and was made Honorary President of the Society for life.

Rain caused the gates to be opened to the public on Tuesday and there was no evening fair, but it was held over on Saturday.

In 1921 W. C. Shepard was appointed to take the place of Herman Johnson as member of the Board. A building was furnished for a pig and calf club and an appropriation of $100 as a premium for each club. The last day of the Fair was designated as Children's Day and special tickets were sent to the Teachers of each school. During the time Miss Hazel Black was County Superintendent of schools much interest was created by having an exhibition of work done in each school at the County Fair. It was first held in the old Floral Hall. When the new Floral Hall was built, it was held on the 2nd floor of the new building. Prizes were given for the best work.

In 1923 a Department of Public Health and Child Welfare was added. The President and Secretary were commissioned to procure shade trees and supervise their planting.

In 1924, 1925 and 1926 rain insurance was taken out and on September 8th, 1926 all horse races were called off an account of wet tracks and the Superintendent of speed was authorized to give back entry fees for same.

In 1927 Harry Hill was commissioned to secure county band at expense not to exceed $350. A pay telephone was installed by Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. for use during the Fair. A wire fence was built on the west side of the grounds. Calf Club and Colt Club members were charged $2.50 entrance fees besides the regular stall fee of $2.25. In 1930 a class for brood mares was added, premiums being $6.00, $4.00 and $2.00.

For several years Grundy County and Butler County exchanged free acts, which was convenient for both the counties and the companies hired to do the entertaining.

An American Legion Day was a feature of the 1932 Fair, with a drill by a drum and bugle corps. Sept. 4, 1933 there was a big Labor Day night show.

A public wedding was a big drawing card of the 1935 Fair. Wedding gifts were solicited from various towns in the county and the Association presented the bride and groom with a purse of $40.00. The bride was Bethel Luvern Sutcliffe and the groom was Leonard Ernest Schmidt.

For several years school bands were featured and were a big drawing card. Parents, teachers and friends came to hear and watch the boys and girls in uniform play and march. Prizes were given for the best school concert band of $30.00, $20.00, and $15.00 and for the best marching band $10.00.

There were no baseball games at the Fair in 1936 but there were running horse races and a farmer's slow race. A vote of thanks was given to A. H. Werner who had served as Secretary for 12 years.

In 1938 $1000 was the limit for free acts and this year the Fair did not pay out and premiums were prorated. The premium book was revised as to Farm Products, flowers, plants and livestock. Three classes of Shorthorn cattle were put into one class as Shorthorns.

The American Legion put on a Tin Can Derby the first day of the Fair and were allowed 10% on every adult, auto and grandstand ticket sold and pro-rated share of children's tickets. The Legion paid all purses and expenses in connection with the Derby.

Fire destroyed the calf barn and it was decided to build a new one, the cost not to exceed the amount of insurance received. H. C. Newbury and C. H. Wild were delegates to the State Convention.

In 1942 only 7 directors were elected whereas the By-Laws called for 8, but no action was taken. There was much discussion concerning holding Fairs on Sunday.

When the Fair was first started people got up early, did the chores and went to the Fair in their horse-drawn phaetons or wagons or buck-boards taking along the entire family. There they met old friends whom they had not seen for a long time.

They had a good visit and a picnic dinner, compared products and methods of farming and had a general good time.

By 1943 a great change had taken place. They came in automobiles. The Fair was like a huge carnival with E. W. Williams Company furnishing the "free acts" and American Beauty Shows taking care of "midway." There were fortune telling gypsies, cotton candy, merry-go-rounds, ferris wheels, dancing girls, noise and music and many other attractions. This year Fine Arts as a class was dropped from the premium list. The American Legion put on the dance and received all of the profits over $100, which amounted to about $30.

In that year the first Saddle Horse Show was held and has been an annual event ever since.

On Nov. 1, 1943 Virgil E. Shepard, Secretary of the Association entered the armed services of the United States and his father, W. C. Shepard was appointed to take his place. He resigned and Dana D. Shepard was appointed. In 1944 children under 8 years were admitted free, 8 to 12 years were charged 10c, over 12 fifty cents. Autos were 25c and season tickets $1.50. On children's day all children under 12 were admitted free. The W.C.T.U. building and the poultry building were sold at auction and the enclosed part of the hog house was used as a poultry house.

In 1945 Francis Allan was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Vern Surfus and Dan Ryan to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of H. R. Van Hauen. Wm. Allen also resigned. Reverend Schortinghuis registered a protest against Sunday Fairs. Karl King's band and the Songfellows were hired for Sunday, August 19th. A special Butler Hog Class was established to be open to all breeds and cross breeds. All 4-H premiums were raised to conform with prizes offered by other counties. Henry Burma for the Commercial Club of Allison, presented the Fair Association with $496.33 as rental, for use of the Fair Grounds July 4th, 1945, with the suggestion that it be used for fencing the Fair Grounds and improving the race track.

There was much talk at this time about building a new Grandstand and race track. A contract was finally let to Paul Beguelin of Greene to repair and rebuild the old grandstand at a cost not to exceed $7000.

Sept. 21, 1946, H. C. Newbury, who had served on the Fair Board 27 years, declined to serve as President and J. F. Allan was elected President.

A contract was entered into with Boyle-Woolfolk Agency of Chicago to furnish a 3-day program for $2000. The Board decided not to let the Fair Grounds for grazing purposes. Anyone desiring to use the grounds for a profit were to pay the Fair Association one-half of the profits, this rule to be in effect until the Fair Association is out of debt.

In 1947 Bernard Huber and Virgil Stevenson met with the Fair Board relative to having a county-wide Boy Scout exhibit. A representative of the Amvets met with the Board concerning giving away a car at the Fair. In 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951 bicycles were given away. In 1949 the upper floor of Floral Hall was made usable for 4-H work. There was a saddle horse show and a leasing contract was entered into with the Allison Ball Association for lighting the baseball diamond for night games.

In 1950 harness and running races were dropped. In 1951 a Wild Life exhibit was shown by the State Conservation Commission. This consisted of a mobile unit with cages and tanks in which were live wild animals, snakes and fish. An attendant talked about the habits and lives of the animals. The number of members of the Board was increased to 11 directors.

In 1952 the fee for Floral Hall space was $30 and all concessions were 30% over other years. Children over 13 had to pay 60c for tickets and those under 13 were admitted free.

In 1953 the Wild Life exhibit was again on hand and school bands from Clarksville, Shell Rock and Allison furnished music. Instead of giving away bicycles this year two beef calves were purchased, one to be given Friday night and one Saturday night. Premiums were given for both male and female champions in Dairy herds and beef type cattle. All past directors and officers and their wives were given an invitation to appear on the platform in front of the Grand Stand to be honored on Sunday night August 2nd at 7 o'clock.

In 1954 the grandstand platform was cemented and the 4-H club barn was painted. $25 was awarded the Grand Champion Baby Beef winner in the Junior division and in the overall Grand Champion in the Dairy class, this money to go toward a trip to the Chicago International Livestock Show. Harry Wilder, representing Butler County Farm Service, proposed a new building, all material to be furnished by Farm Service and the labor by the Fair Association. On Children's Day pony and bicycle races were held and a baseball game and in the evening the WHO barn dance entertained. On Sunday there was a Thrill Show.

In 1955 the number of directors was changed to 10. A large tent was erected over the dance floor to take care of the 4-H Girls Achievement Day Exhibit. Delegates were selected from over the County to help plan for the Centennial coming in 1956.

Through all the years interest of the women has not lagged in the exhibits of beautiful hand work, quilting, crocheting, knitting and sewing fine seams, nor in baking delicious bread and pies and cakes, nor in arranging and growing flowers. What the future holds we do not know as more and more families use the packaged materials in cooking.

Who is to be the judge? Were the old days best, or our more modern ways?

Due to the continued growth of the fair, many improvements have been made in the past four years. In 1952 a concrete dance floor, 80 by 40 feet was added. Around 80 feet of new bleachers were added to the grandstand. And the ball diamond has been made into one of Iowa's finest.

In 1954 a new, 160 foot, Calf Club barn was built; but it failed to be adequate and a lean-to was added the full length to take care of the overflow. This was true as to the swine barn and a lean-to had to be added.

In 1955 the Pony Barn was repaired, an extension added, making a nice 70 foot barn.

Many local people, some belonging to the past, and some to the present, have contributed loyally to the continuing success of the fair. Some credit should be given to J. A. Barlow of Dumont, who went into office as Treasurer in 1917, and still holds that office after nearly 40 years of faithful service.

Henry Burma also deserves a good deal of credit for the part he has played in making the fair a success. No fair would be just the same without Henry doing the announcing. He is always on the platform calling over the P.A. System, and his voice can be heard a long ways from the fairgrounds. Doubt if any Fair in the state has as good an announcer as Butler County.

The present officers and directors are:

J. Francis Allan, President; E. W. Schrage, Vice-President; J. A. Barlow, Treasurer; Charles J. Miller, Secretary. Directors: C. H. Wild, K. W. Brandt, Harry Wilder, J. B. Weires, John Stock, Howard Werner, John Uhlenhopp, Carl Fresenborg, Don Hagarty, Virgil E. Shepard.

Fair Grounds Allison 1908

"The Historical Log Cabin"

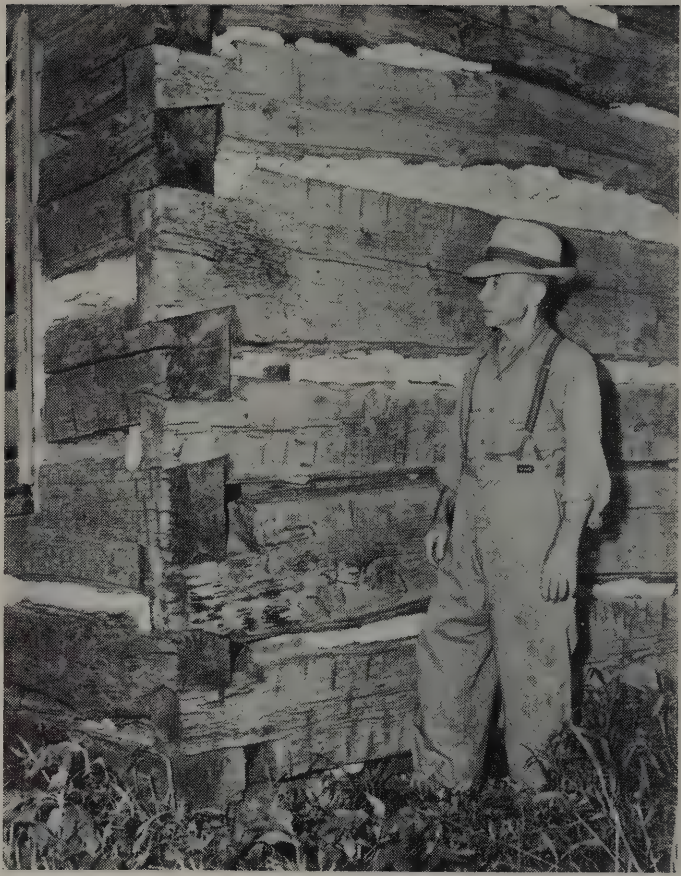
By Mrs. C. H. Riggert

About 1½ miles southwest of Greene in Coldwater Township on the Clyde Wegand farm stands and old log cabin nearly one hundred years old. A cabin that could tell many interesting stories. For once it was a stopover for the stagecoachs between Waterloo and Mason City. This was before the railroad was completed through Greene in 1869. The present owner was born in it in 1883. His father had moved to the place the previous year and later purchased it together with some other land. It has been almost 55 years since anyone has lived in it but Mr. Wegand kept it roofed and used it for corn storage. It is in a remarkable good state of preservation. It is a two story structure. A lean-to surrounded it on three sides. Stage coach travelers often spent the night in his lean-to according to the story passed down through the generations. An old frame barn, now gone, where stage coach horses were stabled, used to stand nearby. Much timber used to surround the house, but this has been cleared away and farm machines have leveled the ruts made by the stagecoaches. The building's age is testimony to the workmanship that went into its construction. Each of the heavy logs is mortised firmly into the logs which join it. Many of the logs are of black walnut. According to Mr. Wegand this place was gotten by his grandfather Hardman from the government in 1855. Later it was owned by his step-grandfather Boggs, then by Mr. Goheen, then by Mr. Miller. These were all relatives of the family. During Mr. Wegand's youth it was known as "the old Goheen place."

Once Mr. Wegand offered the cabin to the town of Greene for its historical value stipulating that it must be moved intact. This was found to be impractical, so nothing came of it.

Now the cabin has been donated and accepted by the Fair Board. It will be taken apart and the logs moved to the Fair grounds at Allison where it will again be assembled upon a new concrete floor and foundation, and kept as a permanent historical site.

It is expected that it will prove to be the nucleus for keeping, storing, and preserving historical objects of the county for future generations.



Wegand cabin showing large mortised logs. Mr. Wegand standing by. Shows size of logs. Three and a half logs as high as the man.

★ ★ ★

A Thank You from the entire Fair board and the executive Committee, Inc.

It is with deep appreciation that we wish to thank all those who have helped in any way to make this Historical Souvenir booklet possible. Lack of space prohibited us from using additional material. Any errors of omission or oversight will be rectified in the next centennial booklet in 2056 A.D.

★ ★ ★

Coca-Cola
TRADE MARK REGISTERED

HYBRID SEED CORN

- ★ Dependable Germination
- ★ Accurately Graded
- ★ Withstands Drought
- ★ Yields High
- ★ Stands Well
- ★ Stays on Stalk 'til Picked

Gives You More Corn Profit

HYBRID HOGS

- ★ Hybrid Vigor
- ★ Larger Litters to Market
- ★ Faster, More Efficient Gains
- ★ More Motherly Sows
- ★ Meatier Carcasses

You can't afford to raise common kinds of hogs.

More Money From Raising Hogs

Butler County Dealers

Paul L. Flora
Greene, Iowa

Dirk P. Gerdes
Dumont, Iowa

Dale V. Grapp
Clarksville, Iowa

Frank Lindaman
Aplington, Iowa

Leonard M. Schwerdtfeger
Parkersburg, Iowa

John J. Uhlenhopp
Kesley, Iowa

Geo. J. Weinberg
Clarksville, Iowa

Dick R. Wessels
Aplington, Iowa

George T. Wilder
Allison, Iowa

Walter F. Willson
Shell Rock, Iowa

Morris Printing Co., Waterloo, Iowa

9/3/2010
T 208593 5 10 00
HF GROUP – IN